

Ways you can help reduce waste and stormwater pollution from building and land development activities

All building and land development works must be carried out in a way that is reasonable and practicable to prevent or minimise entry of any pollution into the environment.

A Site Management Plan should be prepared that includes evaluation of the site conditions and risks. It should also outline measures to manage wastes and control erosion to reduce the risk of stormwater pollution.

For further information

Contact your local shire:
Shire of Capel: 08 9727 0222
Shire of Augusta - Margaret River: 08 9780 5255
Shire of Harvey: 08 9729 0300

A building industry guide to:
Litter management
Resource recovery
Stormwater management
Erosion control

This project is a collaborative partnership between the Shire's of Harvey, Augusta Margaret River and Capel and was funded by the Department of Water via a once off Regional Milestone Assistance Fund for Western Australian Water Campaign™ participants.

The following Shire's are participants in the Water Campaign™.



The Water Campaign™ is delivered by ICLEI Oceania in collaboration with local and state governments, water authorities and the Australian Government. In Western Australia the program is delivered in collaboration with the Government of Western Australia.



Waste and Sediment Management on your Building Site



Follow these 7 steps to help reduce the impact on our stormwater systems

Ways to reduce erosion and control sediment on a building or land development site

Follow these 7 steps to help reduce the impact on our stormwater systems.

1. Limit Disturbance When Excavating

Preserve vegetated areas where possible, as this not only improves the appearance of your site, it also filters much of the sediment from stormwater run-off before it reaches the drainage system. Minimise the time land is exposed without stabilisation and progressively rehabilitate disturbed areas.

2. Install An Erosion / Sediment Barrier

Erosion / Sediment barriers catch sand and coarse sediment before it can wash or blow off site into gutters, drains and waterways.

Sediment Barrier Techniques:

- geotextile sediment fabric attached to posts with the geotextile buried in an upstream trench; or
- place turf of a minimum 600mm width along kerb line; or
- straw bales, staked in a 100mm (min) deep trench.

3. Sand, Mulch and Gravel Stockpiles

Stockpiles should be placed wholly on the construction site and behind a sediment barrier. Any material spilled on the road should be cleaned up immediately. Soil or cement should be covered at the end of each day if excessive wind or rain is likely.

4. Wash Water And Wastes

Wash water and waste from concrete, plaster, paint or brickwork must not be allowed to wash into gutters or the street.

5. Stormwater Management

All rainfall runoff from roofs and paved areas should be contained on site wherever possible. For example direct runoff to soakwells, garden beds and unpaved areas of the site where it can soak into the ground.

6. Single Gravelled Entry/Exit

Where possible restrict vehicle access to one entry/exit point. Placing gravel at the access point will allow all weather access, reduce the amount of soil carried off the site by vehicles, and provide a permanent base for the driveway. Regularly sweep up and remove any sand off the road.

7. Litter And Building Waste

All hard waste and litter must be stored in a way to prevent any materials from entering adjacent land or the stormwater system through wind or water action.

Use a waste contractor that recycles waste material rather than sending it to landfill.

WARNING:

Under new regulations, a person or business can be fined for causing or allowing pollutants, including soil, solvents, paint and fuels, to be discharged to the environment.



Sediment control fence along the lower edge of a residential building site

How does building have an effect on the environment?

Stormwater acts as a carrier for pollution picked up from various sources including building sites and transported through drains to our waterways and coasts.

Litter is one of the most visible forms of stormwater pollution however contaminants such as sand, waste water and oil all impact upon the environment.

Sediment from sand and soil is a particular problem in our waterways because it silts up creeks, rivers and dams, smothers aquatic plants and encourages the growth of weeds.

We as community members all have a role in looking after our water resources. In the driest developed continent in the world, we must make the most of this precious resource.

Benefits of effective litter, waste management and erosion and sediment control:

- Reduced clean up costs
- Less mud and dust problems
- Money saved due to reduced stockpile losses
- Improved drainage and better wet weather working conditions
- Reduced Occupational Health and Safety issues
- Fewer complaints from the public
- Better image within the community
- A better looking site

What about clay soils and steep sites?

Additional site management practices can apply in clay soils or on steep sites. Contour banks can be used to divert up slope runoff around the disturbed area and safely redirect this water to a stabilised area or soakwell. Runoff from heavy rainfall may need to overflow off site to the road drainage system. In this instance, provision shall be made to prevent erosion and soil transport off site.