

# Sediment Fencing



## Building A Better Environment

There is evidence in WA of the adverse impacts from sediment deposition in our waterways. These impacts include:

- Increased weed growth on deposited sediment;
- Adverse impacts on native fauna (including fish) from muddy water reaching the waterway, weed growth on new sediment and loss of river pools and deep water habitat; and
- Reduced capacity of stormwater systems due to drainage pipes becoming blocked with sediment, resulting in a higher risk of flooding.

If you are involved in the building industry, you are required to provide the right circumstances necessary to reduce any environmental impact as a result of the building process.

All building work must be carried out in a way to stop the entry of any pollution into the stormwater system.

The following hints are aimed at building activities and trades involved on a typical building site.

## Sediment Barriers

The most efficient and widely accepted sediment barrier for construction sites is a specially manufactured geotextile sediment fence. Sediment fences act like dams, trapping the sediment while allowing water to leave the site. They are effective in retaining suspended solids coarser than 0.02mm. They are simple to construct, relatively inexpensive and easily moved as development proceeds.

## Construction notes

1. Construct sediment fences as close as possible to follow the contours of the site.
2. Drive 1.5 metre long posts into ground, maximum 3 metres apart.

3. Staple to 40 mm square hardwood posts or wire tied to steel posts.
4. Dig a 150 mm deep trench along the up-slope line of the fence for the bottom of the fabric to be entrenched.
5. Backfill trench over base of fabric and compact on both sides.

## Tips for using a sediment fence

When using a sediment fence, keep in mind that it will be effective within the following parameters:

- It is generally not designed to filter concentrated flows and therefore needs to be placed following the contours whenever possible.
- It should last for up to six months but requires regular maintenance and weekly checks are needed. The performance of a sediment fence diminishes considerably when crushed by delivery of building materials. It must remain vertical and keyed into the soil.
- Where the sediment fence is not installed correctly water will inevitably flow through the point of least resistance. Damaged fences must be repaired promptly.
- Sediment fences need to be trenched in at least 150 mm and buried so the water flows through and not underneath.
- Soil on both sides of the fence must be compacted to avoid seepage under the barrier.

Always check with the local Shire regarding stormwater protection regulations and by-laws on your site.

**WARNING: On the spot FINES apply**

## For Further Information...

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Shire of Augusta - Margaret River:  
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Shire of Harvey:  
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