Tips for Erosion & Sediment Control

Fit the development to the existing terrain
Assess the physical characteristics of the site, including topography, soils, and drainage, to determine how best to develop it with minimal environmental damage. Utilize the existing topography to minimize grading. Utilize the natural drainage patterns where possible. Preserve any existing wetland in accordance with the law.

Develop an erosion and sediment control plan before land-disturbing activities begin, then follow it
If necessary, get professional help in developing such a plan, which should identify the areas where erosion and sedimentation problems are apt to occur on the construction site and specify the measures to reduce those problems.

Retain existing vegetation
If existing vegetation must be cleared, retain and protect it until the area must be disturbed. Maintain a buffer strip of existing vegetation around the perimeter of the site to reduce off-site erosion and sedimentation.

Minimize the exposure of bare soil
Use staged clearing and grading (scheduling) to reduce the amount of bare soil and other disturbed area. Use stabilizing measures, such as seeding temporary or permanent vegetation, sodding, mulching, erosion control blankets, or other protective practices within seven days after the land has been disturbed.

Keep sediment on the construction site
Retain sediment from unavoidable erosion on-site by trapping it with sediment basins or by filtering it out of runoff with vegetative or man-made barriers. Install any needed sediment traps and basins before construction activities begin.

If possible, divert off-site runoff
Use diversions, perimeter dikes, and waterways to intercept off-site runoff and divert it away from the construction site. Install these measures before clearing and grading to reduce the potential for erosion.

Minimize length and steepness of slopes.
Use stair-step grading, diversions, and sediment barriers to break up long, steep slopes. Design measures to slow runoff and allow deposition of sediment.

Keep runoff velocity low.
Reduce runoff velocity by maintaining vegetative cover, preserving a vegetated buffer strip around the lower perimeter of the land disturbance, and installing perimeter controls, such as sediment barriers, silt fences, filters, dikes, or sediment traps.

Inspect and maintain erosion control measures
Inspect all measures for damage after each storm event. Repair any damaged measure.

Additional Information

Additional information on the CSGP is available from IDEM's Construction/Land Disturbance Permitting website at: https://www.in.gov/idem/stormwater/construction-land-disturbance-permitting/.

Projects within Edinburgh's Town limits should contact the Planning Department at 812-526-3512.

Projects outside of Edinburgh should contact the appropriate community or Soil and Water Conservation District to determine review requirements. Find contact information for SWCDs at http://www.wordpress.iaswcd.org

For more information on local storm water issues:

- Visit the Town's Storm Water webpage: https://www.edinburgh.in.us/department/division.php?structureid=66
- Visit the Edinburgh Utility Office located at 107 S. Holland Street
- Call the Utility Office at 812-526-3514 x1.

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Does Your Construction Site Need a Storm Water Permit?

A Developer's Guide to Storm Water Permitting

TOWN OF Edinburgh INDIANA

As of December 18, 2021, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has transitioned from a permit by Rule to a Master General Permit for the Construction Storm Water Program. The previous Rule, 327 IAC 15-5 (Rule 5), has been replaced by the Construction Storm Water General Permit (CSGP).

Obtaining coverage under the CSGP requires approval by the local reviewing authority followed by submittal of a Notice of Intent (NOI) to IDEM.

Does my construction site require a Construction Storm Water Permit?

Does your construction project disturb 1 or more acres of land through removing vegetative cover, clearing, grading, excavating, or stockpiling of fill material? Remember to count the acreage of the entire project, even if you are responsible for only a small portion.

Is your construction project less than 1 acre, but part of a larger common plan of development or sale?

If you answered "yes" to either of these questions,

YOU NEED PERMIT COVERAGE!

Why do I have to get permit coverage?

The purpose of the Construction Storm Water General Permit (CSGP) is to establish requirements for storm water discharges from construction activities so that the public health, existing water uses, and aquatic biota are protected.

Why is storm water runoff so bad?

Runoff from rainstorms and snowmelt picks up pollutants like sediment, oil and grease, nitrogen, phosphorus, and other chemicals and carries them into storm drains or directly into waterbodies.

Because most storm drain systems do not provide any treatment to the water they collect, preventing contamination of storm water is critically important or polluted runoff will be discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and drinking water.

Why is sediment harmful to a waterbody?

Too much sediment in a waterbody can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to receive the sunlight they need to grow. Excess sediment also smothers aquatic habitat, clogs fish gills, and impedes navigation in our waterways, which can lead to expensive dredging.

I need permit coverage. What do I do?

- Determine the reviewing entity in the area where your project will take place. The reviewer may be IDEM, a Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), a county, a city, or a town. There may be fees associated with this process.

- Develop Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) and Storm Water Pollution Prevention (SWPP) Plans that meet state and local requirements.

- Submit your ESC and SWPP Plans to the reviewing entity.

- After approval by the reviewing entity, submit a Notice of Intent to IDEM.

- Implement your ESC and SWPP Plans on your site. Conduct regular inspections to ensure erosion control practices are functioning properly.

- After completion of your project, stabilize the area, remove erosion control measures no longer needed, and seed immediately.

- Notify the reviewer of project completion and submit a Notice of Termination to IDEM once reviewing entity approves.