Other agencies may need to be notified or additional permitting may be required depending on site specifics and location. OCRM (South Carolina Office of Ocean & Coastal Resource Management) is involved in the wetland permitting process if the proposed wetland alteration should take place in the coastal zone or the critical area (the area seaward of the line marking the limit of salt tolerant vegetation). The Army Corps of Engineers has 39 nationwide or general permits for several categories of activities whose wetland impacts are considered minimal. A permit for a wetland altering activity in an area outside of the Coastal Zone, which is not subject to federal jurisdiction, may still require a permit from SCDHEC (South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control). If you have any questions regarding additional permitting issues, be sure to check with the local office of SCDHEC/OCRM at 1362 McMillan Ave, Suite 400, Charleston, SC 29405, Tel: (843) 953-0200

Georgetown County Department of Public Services
Stormwater Division

120 Broad Street
Georgetown, SC
29440
stormwater@georgetowncountysc.org
(843) 545- 3524

Erosion & Sediment Control for Home Builders

Erosion from construction sites is the leading cause of water pollution in Georgetown County. Builders must do their part to help keep our streams and rivers clean.

The Federal Clean Water Act, SC State Law and Georgetown County regulations all require that site development is planned, designed, and constructed to: Protect water resources by limiting erosion and sediment loss; limiting land disturbance activities such as clearing and grading, and cut & fill to reduce erosion and sediment loss; and limit disturbance of natural drainage features and vegetation. Each builder is responsible for controlling sediment, erosion and other pollutants including trash on their construction site.

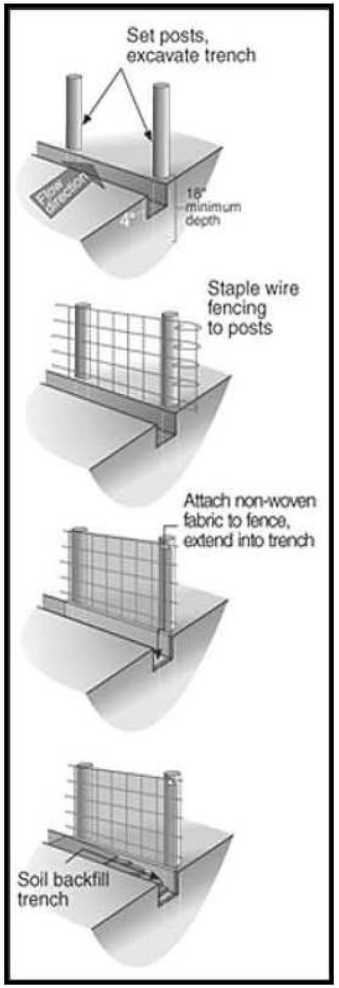
Erosion Control Measures:

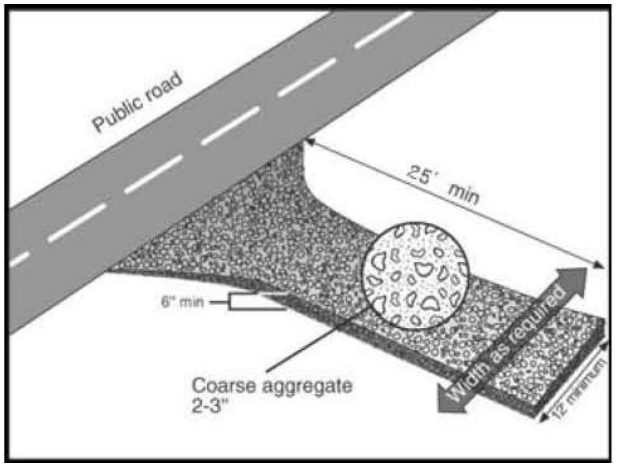
The simple concept of these regulations is to keep your dirt and debris on your site!

Erosion control is an important component of all construction sites. The materials required are easily obtained and generally inexpensive. They include, but are not limited to, silt fencing and/or bags, rocks, slope drains, grass seed, mulch, sediment tubes, geo-textiles, and erosion control blankets. Only a few controls are needed on most sites. However, all erosion controls must be **maintained regularly to be effective.**

Silt Fencing –

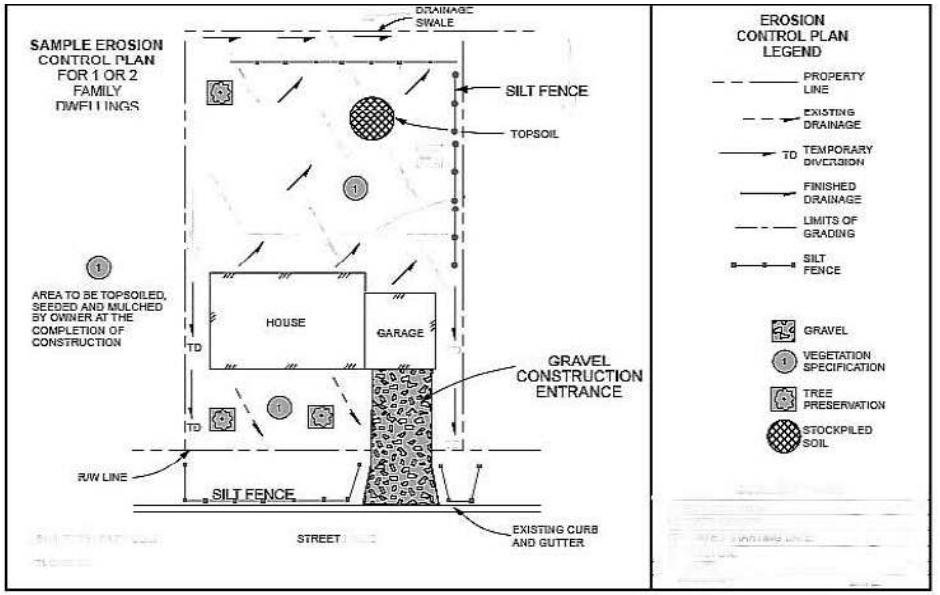
- A silt fence is a temporary sediment barrier constructed of a synthetic filter fabric stretched across posts and in some cases supported on wire fence if installed in an area of concentrated water flow. The bottom shall buried at least 6 inches deep to prevent undercutting.
- Use only fabric appearing on SCDOT Approval Sheet #34 meeting the requirements of the most current edition of the SCDOT Standard Specifications for Highway Construction.
- The height of the fence should be at least 24 inches. Install on down-slope sides of site parallel to contour of land.
- Install on down-slope sides of site parallel to contour of land.
- Dig a small toe-in trench along the line where Silt Fence is to be placed. The trench should be a minimum of 6 inches deep. Place the excavated material on the front or upstream side of the trench to facilitate back filling later.
- Drive the fence posts into the back or downstream side of the trench. The posts should be driven so that at least 1/3 of the height of the post is in the ground
- Place posts between 2 to 6 feet apart depending on the anticipated volume of sediment runoff at the site and strength of filter fabric. In some cases, closer spacing may be required and additional posts may be added for extra support.
- Turn and extend silt fence ends enough upslope forming a “J” hook
- Regular maintenance of silt fence is required, especially after each rain event





Gravel Construction Entrance

A gravel construction entrance should be provided at each building construction site if soils are susceptible to the tracking of mud onto paved roads. This should be installed as soon as the foundation is staked out. The need for a gravel entrance may be eliminated if the builder cleans the road at the end of each day. If mud is being tracked onto the road and is not cleaned each day then a gravel construction entrance will be required.



Inlet Protection -

- Install inlet protection at the first inlet downstream from the site location. Refer to SCDHEC BMP Manual.

Soil Piles -

- Locate away from down slope street, driveway, stream, ditch, lake, wetland, or other such drainage way.
- Stabilize with mulch and/or vegetation. Temporary seed such as annual rye or winter wheat is recommended for topsoil piles. This mulching and vegetating prevents erosion by protecting soil surface from raindrop impact and reduces the volume and velocity of overland flow, as well as promoting plant growth.

Sediment and Trash Cleanup -

- At the end of each work day, sweep and scrape up soil tracked onto roads and pick up all loose trash and debris.
- After each rain event check for failed silt fence and clean-up sediment that has by-passed the silt fence.

Paint Waste -

- All paint cans must be left uncovered and allowed to completely dry before disposing of in trash receptacles (water-based only). Oil based paints must be disposed of as hazardous materials. When washing equipment, use marked concrete washout areas, this will allow the paint waste to dry and be removed properly.

Preserve Existing Vegetation -

- Wherever possible, preserve existing trees, shrubs or vegetation. The vegetative cover of trees, shrubs, vines, or ground cover is often used to aid in stabilizing soil in areas where vegetation other than grasses is preferred. These methods also provide shade, screening, aesthetics, as well as shelter and food for wildlife. Using vines and ground covers provides cover to areas where grasses are hard to establish and maintain.
- Leaving a strip of vegetation around a site may take the place of silt fence in containing sediment.

Revegetation -

- Seed and mulch, or sod bare soil as soon as possible. Vegetation is the most effective method in controlling erosion. The purpose of permanent stabilization of all fill material is to establish a permanent turf area and prevent erosion of newly placed fill material and/or excavated material.
- Preventing erosion saves money, fill dirt is expensive and keeping it on site minimizes the need to bring in additional fill.

Trash Control -

- Construction debris and trash are pollutants and must not be allowed to litter the surrounding area. Each site should have a wire fence enclosure, garbage cans or dumpster for debris and trash. In lieu of these the builder can keep the site clean and remove trash and debris at the end of each day.