



Erosion Control Soil Cover

EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL TOOLKIT FOR HOUSE BUILDERS

FACTSHEET 2 OF 10

Covering soil is the best way to stop erosion caused by rain and wind. Unlike sediment barriers (such as sediment fences), which capture eroded coarse sediment, erosion controls can stop both coarse and fine sediment from eroding in the first place.

How

- Only clear the area necessary to undertake building work. Keep as much existing soil cover on your site as possible.
- Only clear immediately before commencing building work, not weeks or months in advance.
- Cover bare soil as soon as possible. Rather than waiting for building work to finish, find a temporary covering that can be walked on during the building stage.

Some examples to cover soil include:

Surface Type	Soil Cover Type
Slopes and batters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Erosion control blankets• Turf• Hydromulch
Service trenches	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Turf• Gravel
Stockpiles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tarps• Builder's plastic
Area between kerb and lot	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Turf
All other exposed soil around the building site	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mulch (gravel, straw, wood)• Turf• Spray-on soil binders

ESC Tip

Choose cover types that can withstand the expected traffic movements, such as straw mulch.



(Source: Catchments and Creeks Pty Ltd)

Maintenance

Regularly check your soil cover before and after rain. If bare soil is visible, you need to add more cover.

Site Rehabilitation

Revegetate and landscape your site as soon as building works are complete.

Did you know...

Soil binders or soil stabilisers can be used to bind soil together and prevent it from eroding.

Things to consider when using soil binders:

- Check with the supplier or manufacturer that the product can be planted over, is safe to use in residential areas, and is not toxic or harmful to plants, animals, and waterways.
- Spray-on binders can be difficult to see on the ground unless a coloured dye is added. Talk to your supplier about options.
- Products may need to be reapplied after a certain time. Check with your supplier about expected product life.

Find out more at healthywaterways.org/esc

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