

## Stormwater Pollution Prevention Guide

*Maintain your BMPs!*



**Polluted stormwater runoff is a major cause of water pollution.** Be sure to follow best practices and local bylaws to reduce your impact on streams and ponds.

### Be a Responsible Contractor

Review the Best Management Practice tips inside this brochure and be sure to ask your local Conservation Commission or engineering department for advice on local rules and technical assistance.

### Get Your Permit

All construction sites in MA that disturb an acre or more of earth must apply for a “Construction General Permit” from the US EPA.

Local rules vary from community to community, but many communities in our area require a town stormwater permit when you disturb as little as 2,500 square feet of earth.

Get information about the EPA Construction General Permit and application process at [YourCleanWater.org](http://YourCleanWater.org)

### Don't Get Sued!

Cities and towns actively monitor for violations and can take enforcement action, shutdown projects, and levy fines.

In many cases, third party lawyers and environmental groups can also sue contractors who don't comply with construction stormwater permits. When they do, contractors pay the other side's legal costs, plus penalties, plus the cost to correct problems.



### Stormwater Runoff from Construction Can Be a Big Problem

There are many construction activities that contribute to soil erosion and water pollution.

Rain that falls on construction sites with disturbed soils can wash off into wetlands, streams, or onto paved surfaces that drain to waterways.

### Protect Your Business, Your Clients and Your Reputation

In order to prevent serious environmental issues and the consequences that follow, it's essential to install and maintain construction site stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) properly.

The installation of properly situated stormwater BMPs means that you will avoid fines and work stoppages, protect the waterways your community depends on—and earn a well-deserved reputation.

**For more information, visit**  
[YourCleanWater.org](http://YourCleanWater.org)



Content provided by the Neponset River Watershed Association (NepRWA) on behalf of the Neponset Stormwater Partnership. Learn more about NepRWA at [neponset.org](http://neponset.org)

# Stormwater and Construction Industry BMPs

## Protect Natural Features



- Minimize clearing.
- Minimize the amount of exposed soil.
- Identify and protect areas where existing vegetation, such as trees, will not be disturbed by construction activity.
- Protect streams, stream buffers, wild woodlands, wetlands, or other sensitive areas from any disturbance or construction activity by fencing or otherwise clearly marking these areas.

## Construction Entrances



- Remove mud and dirt from the tires of construction vehicles before they enter a paved roadway.
- Properly size entrance BMPs for all anticipated vehicles.
- Make sure that the construction entrance does not become buried in soil.

## Construction Phasing



- Sequence construction activities so that the soil is not exposed for long periods of time.
- Schedule or limit grading to small areas.
- Install key sediment control practices before site grading begins.
- Schedule site stabilization, such as landscaping, to be completed immediately after the land has been graded to its final contour.

## Silt Fencing



- Install silt fence properly! Make sure the bottom 6" of fabric is buried in the ground, not just tucked under the hay bale.
- Inspect and maintain silt fences after each rainstorm.
- Securely attach the material to the stakes.
- Don't place silt fences in the middle of a waterway or use them as a check dam.
- Make sure stormwater is not flowing around the silt fence.

## Site Stabilization



- Vegetate, mulch, hydroseed, install erosion control blankets, or otherwise stabilize all exposed areas as soon as land alterations have been completed.

## Slopes



- Rough grade or terrace slopes.
- Break up long slopes with sediment barriers, or under drain, or divert stormwater away from slopes.

## Dirt Stockpiles



- Cover or hydroseed all dirt stockpiles immediately.

## Vegetative Buffers



- Protect or install vegetative buffers along waterbodies to slow and filter stormwater runoff.
- Maintain buffers by mowing or replanting periodically to ensure their effectiveness.

## Storm Drain Inlet Protection



- Use rock or other appropriate material to cover the storm drain inlet to filter out trash and debris.
- Make sure the rock size is appropriate (usually 1-2" in diameter).
- If you use inlet filters or silt sacks, maintain them regularly.