

Why is erosion and sediment control important?

The fine particulate nature of Prince Edward Island's soil makes it particularly susceptible to erosion. Excessive soil erosion has been identified as the **largest environmental issue** in the province through public input and studies. Most sediment eventually comes to rest in our watercourses and wetlands, causing severe and often long-term effects.

Effects on **wildlife** in freshwater include:

- sediment smothering benthic organisms
- reducing egg-laying habitat
- blocking sunlight from aquatic plants
- excessive nutrient loading
- damage to fish gills
- reducing visibility in water

Sedimentation effects on **humans** include:

- reducing capacity for recreational use
- degradation of water quality
- impeding water storage of natural infrastructure such as ponds and estuaries
- creation of costly restoration projects for future generations

Preventing sediment from entering wetland ecosystems is the only way to avoid all of these effects. It is imperative to protect wetlands as they serve many important ecological functions including natural water purification, and providing storage of freshwater for humans, fish and wildlife.



Example of a pond inundated with sediment after a heavy rain event in Stratford, PE

Best Practices

- Limit the size of the disturbed area.
 - Retain existing vegetation wherever feasible for as long as possible.
 - Do not remove or disturb vegetation outside the development permit approved area of construction.
- Limit the time the disturbed area is exposed.
 - Stabilize or re-vegetate exposed areas as soon as possible.
 - Stabilize access roads as soon as possible.
- Divert upland surface runoff away from exposed areas.
- Minimize the velocity of surface runoff by limiting the slope and gradient of disturbed areas.
- Plan construction to coincide with the low flow period from June 1st to September 30th of every year.
- Check erosion control measures on a regular basis - minimum of every 7 days and immediately following a heavy rainfall event.
- Any mud or debris that is tracked onto the public roadway must be cleaned off by the end of each work day.

Other Resources:

- PEI Watercourse, Wetland and Buffer Zone Activity Guidelines
- Alberta Transportation Erosion and Sediment Control Manual: Appendix C: Erosion and Sedimentation Control Best Management Practices

Erosion and Sediment Control: Best Practices and Control Methods



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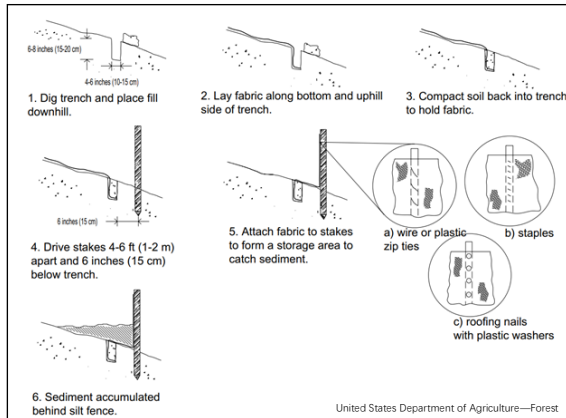
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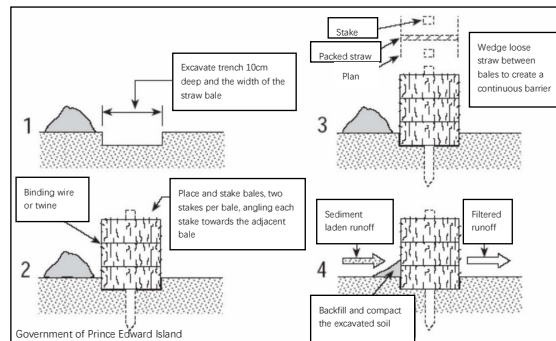
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Erosion and Sediment Control Structures—Quick Reference

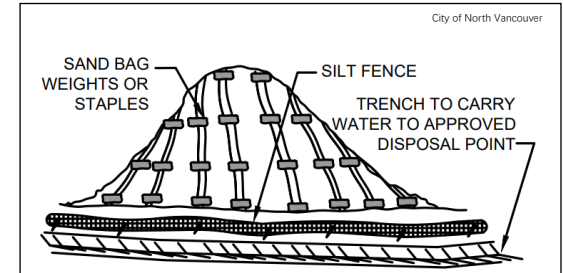
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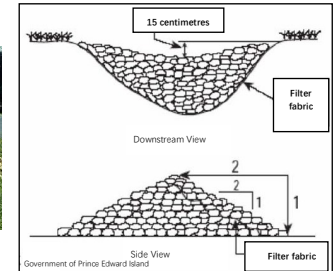
Straw Bale Barriers



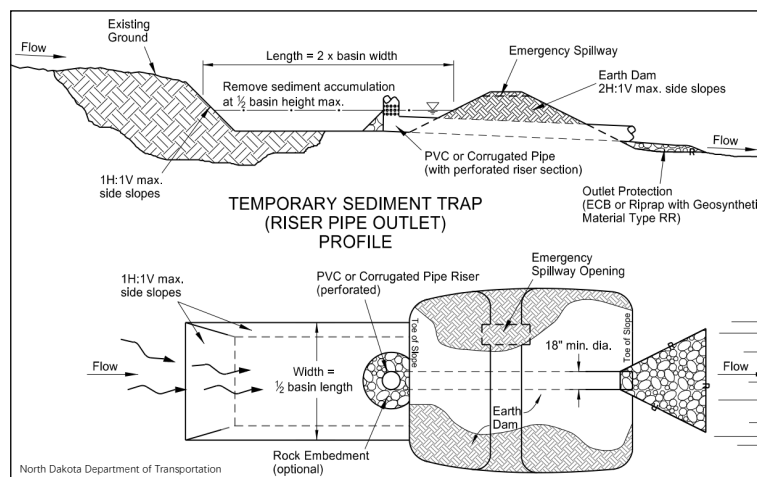
Stockpile Protection



Stone Check Dams



Temporary Sediment Traps



Storm Sewer Inlet Protection

