

EROSION PREVENTION

ESTABLISH VEGETATIVE COVER

- Plant roots are very effective at stabilizing soil
- Select plants that are tolerant of site conditions
- Create wells around the base of plantings to trap water and increase infiltration, improving survival
- Mulching over bare soil helps to retain water and reduce erosion while plants are getting established
- Until plants are well established, temporary measures such as fiber rolls may be used to stabilize soil
- Monitor points where landscaping meets pavement to ensure efforts are successful

INSTALL STRUCTURAL CONTROLS

- Curbs, retaining walls, gravel, and other hard surface installations may be used in conjunction with vegetation, or where vegetation is not feasible
- Consider terracing hillsides to slow runoff and reduce erosion
- Products such as erosion control mats, jute matting, grids, and soil binders may be applied to stabilize bare dirt areas
- Remember that paving over problem areas eliminates the benefits of landscaping, including runoff reduction, so it should be considered as a last resort.

RETHINK AREA DESIGN AND USE

- Raised or heaped earth landscaping surrounded by pavement will always have a greater erosion potential. Where possible, consider excavating to a level below the pavement to improve containment, which may also be designed to receive storm water for improved infiltration and pollutant retention (Low Impact Development concept)

REASON FOR ACTION:

Sediment (a.k.a. dirt or soil) clogs storm drains and can cause flooding, clouds water which reduces sunlight reaching aquatic plants, buries habitats in aquatic systems downstream, and can carry heavy metals, fertilizers, and pesticides which are toxic to aquatic life. Rain, irrigation water, leaks, and other disturbances can scour sediment from unpaved areas and carry it downstream. Municipalities are required to reduce sediment reaching waterways, and may look to put more pressure on school facilities to do the same. By following these guidelines, schools can reduce their impact on surface water quality.



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See Reverse for training log