

Site Inspection Checklist

The first thing to consider when inspecting a site is determining how many acres are being impacted and if there are any wetlands present on-site or adjacent to the site (required permits approved.) Then you will need to determine the type of soil present and evaluate where water is moving or has potential to move across and off the site. Then the following checklist should be followed:

- Have the appropriate permits been acquired? Are they posted on-site?
- Are appropriate perimeter controls in place? Were they properly installed i.e. silt fences buried and not sagging; hay bales in working condition. Are they being maintained and sufficiently eliminating runoff and sediment from leaving the site?
- Have they utilized the correct BMPs to reduce exposed soil's risk of coming in contact with rain and sheet flow? Are those BMPs been inspected after rain events? In areas not currently under construction for 7 days or more, have they established vegetation or used temporary matting or geotextiles?
- Do they have proper entrance/exit standards in place to keep soil from leaving on vehicles entering and exiting the site?
- If waterbodies are within or adjacent to site are there turbidity barriers in place and have measures been taken to protect the slope leading to the waterbody?
- Is site trash and debris being managed? Stockpiles covered, slope maintained, and BMPs in place to reduce erosion?
- Are additional BMPs needed on-site?

Additional Resources

For more information about these BMPs and others please utilize the resources provided below or contact us for additional guidance.

Santa Rosa Land Development Code

<https://www.santarosa.fl.gov/182/Land-Development-Code>

Florida Stormwater Erosion & Sedimentation Control Inspectors Manual Tier I & Tier II

<https://floridadep.gov/dear/florida-stormwater-erosion>

Stormwater Discharge from Large and Small Construction Activities

https://floridadep.gov/sites/default/files/Construction_Generic_Permit_0.pdf

FDOT Erosion & Sediment Control Designer and Reviewer Manual

<https://www.fdot.gov/docs/default-source/roadway/drainage/files/Erosion-Sediment-Control.pdf>

Please contact us at:

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Inspecting Construction Sites for Erosion & Sediment Control

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Why Use Erosion & Sediment Control?

Erosion is a process of the land being worn away by wind, water, and gravity that occurs naturally over a long period of time, but can occur rapidly due to anthropogenic impacts. This leads to sedimentation, the settling out of soil, which is a major contributor to high turbidity and nutrient loading in Northwest Florida's waterbodies. Land clearing and development activities play a huge role in the declining water quality which negatively impacts aquatic life including local fish and oyster populations, recreational water activities, beneficial uses of waterbodies, property values, shoreline storm protection, and incurs millions of dollars in revenue loss every year.

Best Management Practices for Construction Sites

Proper installation and maintenance of BMPs at the site can reduce erosion and retain sediment generated on-site and is vital to prevention of negative environmental impacts. BMPs should be installed prior to any clearing or construction activities and maintained throughout construction activities. Examples include the following:

Construction Entrance/exit

Prevents tracking of soil onto roadway.

- Must be 50' min. in length and 12' wide.
- FDOT No. 1 Aggregate (2" -3" in size).
- Aggregate 6" min. depth over geotextile fabric.

Perimeter Barriers

Last resort for trapping sediment and preventing runoff from leaving the site. Includes silt fencing and hay bales which cannot be used in concentrated flows or on steep slopes. Remains on-site until permanent vegetation is established.

Silt Fences:

- Must be 36" in height, buried min. of 8".
- Trench dimensions 4" deep, 4" wide.
- Post Spacing: 6' min., wire backing 10' min.
- Posts: 1 x 2 wooden stakes buried 12' min.
- Double rows needed when sensitive areas adjacent to site with 3" min. between.



Hay Bales:

- Must be anchored with two wooden stakes with dimensions 1" x 2" min. that are 4' in length.
- Rails/Posts: 2" x 4" min.
- Adjoining bales to be butted firmly against one another.
- Bales require frequent inspection and replace as needed.



Inlet Protection

Last resort for trapping sediment and preventing runoff from leaving the site.

- Stake dimensions 2" x 4" min. in sufficient quantity to prevent collapsed fabric.
- Wire-backed fabric needed.
- Trenching around fabric used if slope exceeds 25'.
- Drainage area not to exceed 1 acre.



Stockpiles/Staging areas

Protects resources such as topsoil on-site and prevents it from leaving the site.

- Slope min. of 3:1.
- Silt fence or trenches needed around the edge.
- Temporary cover such as tarps or vegetation needed when undisturbed for 7 or more days.



Re-vegetation/ Slope Protection

Establishing permanent vegetation and the use of temporary cover methods will greatly reduce the harming effects of erosion on-site. Extensive root systems work to hold soil in place while temporary cover will shield the site from rain and runoff interactions. Areas with exposed soil should be treated with temporary cover within 7 days of no activity. Some common practices include:

- Erosion Control Matting and geotextiles
- Sod or seed with or without control blankets
- Hydroseeding
- Topsoil and mulch
- Bank stabilization



Swales/Berms

Provides an area to allow the retention and treatment of runoff on-site.

- Side-slope ratio (3:1).
- Vegetation extends 2' outward from toe.
- Rip-rap lined channels need frequent maintenance to prevent sediment & debris buildup.

