

Is there training?

Yes. The Commonwealth of Virginia, through the Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR), offers training and certification courses for those involved in the various aspects of erosion and sediment control (E & SC) compliance or regulation.

Training and certification is available for Plan Reviewers, Inspectors and Program Administrators.

The courses are based on the Virginia Erosion & Sediment Control Law and regulations and the [Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook](#), which is published by DCR. To obtain more information or to purchase a handbook, please contact DCR at:

203 Governor Street, Suite 206, Richmond, Virginia
23219-2094; Ph. (804) 786-2064 or online at:
www.dcr.state.va.us

What about Permits?

Any land disturbance of 2500 square feet or more requires a Land Disturbance Permit from the City's Engineering Department. To get the permit, an Erosion & Sediment Control Plan that meets the City's and DCR's requirements must be submitted and approved by the Engineering Department. To find out more about the land disturbance permit fees and plan requirements, please call the City's Engineering Department at (757) 393-8592 or review the City's E&SC online at:

www.portsmouthva.gov/citycode.htm



Department of Public Utilities/Works
Stormwater Management

801 Crawford Street, 2nd Floor
Portsmouth, Virginia 23704-0490
Phone (757) 393-8691
Fax (757) 393-8976

E-mail: stormwater@portsmouthva.gov

It's just Dirt. .



What more do I need to know?

You need to know. . .

When vegetation and topsoil are stripped from a construction site, erosion is sure to follow. Exposed soil, or **dirt**, erodes when there's nothing to protect it from rain and wind. This eroded dirt doesn't just disappear. It usually ends up in a nearby waterway, where it eventually settles to the bottom to become **sediment**. In fact, this sediment just might find its way to your favorite fishing hole. If so, it won't help your odds of landing "the big one" there since it smothers the fish eggs and blocks needed sunlight!



The rate of erosion on most construction sites is 500 times greater than what would occur naturally on an undisturbed, vegetated site. That's why urban land development is a major source of sediment pollution. In fact, by volume, sediment is currently the greatest pollutant of Virginia's rivers and streams.

Why is it important?

You might wonder why plain, old dirt is considered a contaminant. It pollutes by clouding waters, obstructing waterways, clogging storm pipes, damaging adjacent properties and interfering with navigation. It smothers fish and shellfish spawning grounds. Ultimately, excessive sedimentation alters the diversity of fish populations in waterways and affects the organisms fish feed on.

What should you do?

Keep **your dirt on your** project! Install erosion and sediment controls properly and at the beginning of construction. And maintain the controls throughout the project.

Also be sure to:

- Select & install controls that suit the site's topography, soils, drainage patterns and natural vegetation.
- Clear the smallest area possible in which to complete your work and keep as much of the existing vegetation as possible. Allow cleared areas to remain cleared for the **least** time possible.
- Install controls that protect your project's disturbed areas from offsite runoff and that prevent sedimentation downstream. Remember, the goal is to keep **your dirt on your** project!
- Slow down stormwater runoff before it leaves your site.
- Stabilize disturbed areas **immediately** after final grading.

You might also want to ask yourself, "If it rains tonight, will these controls do the job? Will they protect the site and nearby waterways and properties? If your answer is "NO", then you need to add more protection **BEFORE IT RAINS!**

What's in it for YOU?

Mainly **TIME** and **MONEY**. By installing the right controls at the right time - at the beginning of the project - and maintaining them throughout the project, you'll save money and suffer less aggravation. Here are some costs associated with poor maintenance of erosion controls or noncompliance:

- Project SHUT DOWN due to a Stop Work Order.
- Damage repair on adjacent properties and waterways.
- Missed deadlines, litigation, and subcontractors' change orders for additional work.
- Possible Civil Penalties or administrative fines.

It's just smarter to do the job right in the first place. By fighting sediment pollution, you'll save money and time and protect Virginia's precious natural resources. And the next time you take your children or grandchildren to that fishing hole, there just might be a few more fish to catch!

