



# Erosion and sedimentation (E&S) FAQ for contractors

Sediment runoff from construction sites is prohibited from entering public streets, sidewalks, sewer inlets and water bodies. The Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) is responsible for ensuring that contractors properly install **erosion and sedimentation (E&S) controls** on all construction sites throughout the City.

## What are E&S controls and why are they important?

Sediment from construction projects is a major pollutant in local waters. When the earth is disturbed, soil is easily eroded and washes into streams or rivers directly or indirectly through the City’s stormwater inlets and drainage infrastructure. Sediment can also clog inlets and subsurface infrastructure, requiring increased maintenance.

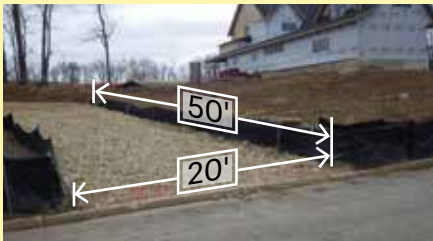
Fortunately, contractors can implement relatively easy precautions to minimize erosion and to keep eroded soil on site and out of our City streets, sidewalks, inlets, drainage networks and water bodies.



**State and City law require that our waterways and sewer system be protected from construction site runoff.**

## What are the typical E&S controls applicable to all construction activities?

### 1. Rock Construction Entrance:



Install at a minimum 50-feet in length and 20-feet in width

### 2. Silt Fence/Silt Sock Perimeter



Silt sock



Silt fence

Must stake silt sock and trench silt fence in place

### 3. Inlet Protection



Install in all on-site inlets and inlets in adjacent streets. Remove at project completion; Allow for proper drainage with no ponding or standing water

### 4. Soil Stockpile Protection



Shall not exceed 35-feet in height with slopes 2H:1V or flatter

All E&S controls require routine maintenance and replacement. Temporary stabilization is required for any break in construction activity and permanent stabilization must be achieved at the completion of construction.

## How do I know what E&S requirements apply to my construction project?

1. Determine the proposed earth disturbance area associated with your construction project.
2. Review Philadelphia Water's ***Stormwater Management Guidance Manual*** to determine applicable E&S requirements, and understand what approvals or permits must be obtained before construction.
3. Develop a plan to prevent erosion and sediment runoff from leaving the site and obtain required approvals and permits. If the earth disturbance total for the proposed construction project requires that an E&S Plan be developed, then the E&S Plan must be available on-site at all times during construction activity.

**Table: E&S Requirements Based On Earth Disturbance**

E&S REQUIREMENTS	EARTH DISTURBANCE			
	< 5000 SQ. FT	5,000 to 15,000 SQ. FT	>15,000 SQ. FT	>1 acre
Implement E&S Controls as necessary on-site	YES	YES	YES	YES
Develop an E&S Plan	NO	YES	YES	YES
Obtain PWD E&S Plan Approval	NO	NO	YES	YES
Obtain PA DEP NPDES Permit	NO	NO	NO	YES

## What will happen if I don't install and properly maintain E&S controls?

If E&S controls are not installed and maintained as required, the construction site may be subject to enforcement action by the City. Depending on the severity of the issue, a Stop Work Order may be placed against the site until the required E&S controls are installed and any damage to City property is repaired. Depending on the size of your project, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) may also enforce against the site. Issues that can lead to the violations are shown at right:

### Issues that can lead to violations:

- E&S controls are not installed or being adequately maintained.
- Sediment is tracked into roadways or runs off into inlets, waterways or adjacent properties.
- Stockpiles are unprotected.
- Construction sequence is not being followed.
- Construction activity is not in accordance with PWD-approved plans.
- Lack of temporary or final stabilization resulting in sediment runoff.

## Philadelphia Water: More Information and Contact List

Access Philadelphia Water's ***Stormwater Management Guidance Manual*** online:



[www.pwdplanreview.org](http://www.pwdplanreview.org)

Contact **Stormwater Plan Review** with questions or to schedule a meeting:



[PWD.PlanReview@phila.gov](mailto:PWD.PlanReview@phila.gov)



(215) 685-6387

Attend Stormwater Plan Review's **Walk-In Hours:**

Held every Tuesday from  
11:00 am – 1:00 pm,  
1101 Market Street, 5th Floor