



Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control (SESC) Program

What is Soil Erosion and Sedimentation?

- Erosion is the process when soil particles get swept away by wind or rain.
- Sedimentation is the buildup of soil particles in a river or stream.

Why is erosion and sedimentation control important?

Sediment is the greatest pollutant by volume entering our lakes and streams. While soil erosion and sedimentation occur naturally, caused by wind and rain, human activities such as construction and other development (changing the landscape from forest to residential yards, streets, shopping centers and roads activities) can accelerate the process by up to 2,000 times. Soil erosion may result in the following:

- Loss of land mass, thus reducing the property value of homes and parcels.
- Increased flooding due to the reduction of stream channel or storm drain capacity.
- Structural damage to buildings and roads.
- Reduced oxygen levels in lakes and streams, which can become detrimental to aquatic life.
- Reduced aquatic habitat for bottom-dwelling plants and animals.
- Soil can carry pollutants, such as fertilizers, oils and greases, etc. to our waterways.
- Erosion costs local governments millions of dollars a year, due to maintenance and inspection expenditures, which increases property and municipal taxes.

Why do I need a SESC Permit?

Under PART 91, Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, a SESC permit is required for any earth change that disturbs one or more acres, or is within 500 feet of a lake or stream. Earth change activities may include (but not be limited to the following):

1. Construction of a home or commercial building
2. Constructing an outdoor in-ground pool
3. Any construction additions to your home or garage
4. Utility installation (watermain, sanitary sewers, etc.)

What information is required in the permit application and plan?

Refer to the permit application packet for permit application and plan requirements. The requirements are dependent upon site characteristics such as: the topography or slope of the site, the distance to the nearest lake, pond, stream or conservation easement and the type of construction activity taking place.

NOTE: If any dewatering procedures are planned, make sure you make note of this on your permit application and plan; you will also need to specify how and where the water will be transported.

Who do I contact if I have any questions regarding these requirements, or any additional information?

Paul O'Meara, City of Birmingham City Engineer, Engineering Department – 248-530-1850, pomeara@bhamgov.org.

What are my responsibilities as an SESC permit applicant?

As a permit applicant, you are responsible for the following:

1. Submitting a complete SESC application and 3 copies of the plan to the Engineering Department prior to any earth change.
2. Installing ALL SESC measures before any earth change.
3. Contacting Vic Strek (248-530-1893) once these SESC measures are in place for an initial inspection, prior to the release of your building permit.
4. Maintaining ALL SESC measures throughout the course of construction, until permanent stabilization is established on site, regardless of any seasonal restrictions.

NOTE: New homeowners are responsible for maintaining silt fencing around the perimeter of their home upon the time of sale, until vegetation is established within their lot.

5. Contacting the Engineering Department of any changes that may need to be made of the SESC plan during construction.

How often are SESC inspections performed on site?

Twice a month and after every rain event.

What is the standard procedure if the site is not in compliance with Part 91?

1. If any of the SESC measures (silt fencing, gravel access, catch basin filters...) are failing, or if there is any significant dirt tracking onto the street and/or parking lots during a site inspection, then the site foreman and/or permit applicant will be notified by phone.
2. If these SESC measures are not corrected by the next week of inspection, then a Notice of Violation (NOV) will be posted on site and a letter will be sent to the permit applicant.
3. The SESC applicant is allowed 2 working days to bring the site into compliance, following a NOV.
4. After 2 working days, an additional site inspection is performed. If the site is still out of compliance at the time of inspection, then a Stop Work Order will be posted on site, followed by a letter sent to the permit applicant.
5. If the site remains out of compliance 2 days after a SWO notice is posted,, if the site remains out of compliance, the Building Department will cease all construction activity on site until the site is brought into compliance.

NOTE: While the site is under an SWO, the Building Department has the right to refuse all building inspections on this site.

The permit applicant (landowner) or site foreman can call Vic Strek at any time to request a site re-inspection of the SESC violations, prior to the scheduled 2 working days.