Construction Site Erosion Control

Guiding Principles, Practices & Policies

1. **Site planning issues:**
   - Plan to "fit" the development to the site without excessive grading, etc.
   - Minimize size of disturbed area/loss of trees & other vegetation cover. Delineate area to be disturbed (building envelopes for small sites), field stake and monitor.
   - Avoid naturally steep slopes or planned cut/fill slopes greater than 3h:1v.
   - Identify, survey, map and protect on/off-site natural resources (environmental corridors, water resources/wetlands, steep slopes, bedrock, groundwater, etc.)
   - Locate and design access drives to prevent washouts.
   - Locate soil stockpiles at least 75' from waterways and avoid channel flows.

2. **Plan to minimize the time the disturbed soil is exposed to erosion:**
   - Recognize seeding deadlines (Sept. 15 permanent grass, Oct. 15 oats/wheat/rye).
   - Phase large construction projects/topsoil & seed dormant areas.
   - Sequence construction to allow seeding & avoid redisturbing areas.
   - Require "inactive" construction sites to be stabilized.

3. **Control soil erosion & sedimentation during construction:**
   - Divert upslope/downspout runoff around the construction site if needed.
   - Install perimeter silt fence if applicable.
     Note: Silt fences only work for small drainage areas, overland flows & stockpiles. They can temporarily help at culvert inlets by creating a small sediment trap.
   - Sediment basins are usually needed for road construction and large construction sites (>5 acres). They can serve as permanent wet detention basins afterwards for stormwater.
   - Plan for site dewatering/pumping if applicable (sediment basin).
   - Clean up street/off-site sediment/tracking daily.
   - Use watering to control wind erosion on large open sites/sandy soils.

4. **Stabilize the site ASAP (3-7 days)**
   - Encourage landscapers to closely follow final grading activities for quicker stabilization.
   - Follow stabilization standards for road ditches/slopes (mulch/netting/<u>matting</u>/sod/rock).
   - Armor storm inlets and outlets to protect from erosion (sod, rip rap, etc.).
   - Apply 4-6" of topsoil to all areas to be seeded. Truck it in if necessary.
   - Seed, fertilize and mulch all disturbed areas (at a minimum).
   - Remove temporary erosion control practices (silt fences, etc.)

5. **Consider local policies to control soil erosion:**
   - Don't allow new local road construction to start after September 15 to allow for proper ROW stabilization before the end of the growing season.
   - Seed down cropland before developing rural subdivisions to minimize the runoff/erosion.
   - Specify acceptable utility placement to avoid channel erosion
     Note: require utility easements or ROW placement at shoulder edge
   - Encourage channel stabilization and landscaping to occur <u>before</u> paving to reduce runoff in channels and other areas during seed germination stage.