

Required Water Quality Protection Practices for Small Construction Sites

Construction sites of all sizes are required to use water quality protection practices to reduce the amount of dirt, trash, and other pollutants that could otherwise leave the sites. The water quality protection practices below are the minimum requirements for small construction sites.

Water Quality Protection Practice	Example Photos
Install final cover (landscaping, buildings, pavement, etc.) as soon as possible (SS-1).	 <p style="text-align: right;">Establishing permanent vegetation</p>
Protect bare soil and other disturbed areas at least one day before predicted storms and whenever the area will be inactive for more than 14 days using one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wood Mulch (SS-8) • Straw mulch (SS-6) • Plastic covers (SS-7) • Straw mats (SS-7) Other methods that require specialized equipment like hydraulic mulch (SS-3), hydroseeding (SS-4), and soil binders (SS-5) are also acceptable.	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Wood mulch</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Straw mulch</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Straw mats</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Plastic covers</p> </div> </div>
Use one or more of the following around the perimeter of the construction area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiber rolls (SC-5) • Silt fence (SC-1) • Gravel bag berm (SC-6) 	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Fiber rolls</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Silt fence</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Gravel bag berm</p> </div> </div>

Caltrans fact sheets can be viewed for more detailed directions. Caltrans references are provided in parentheses, the fact sheets can be viewed at

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/construc/stormwater/factsheets.htm>.

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Water Quality Protection Practice	Example Photos
Prevent tracking of dirt to areas outside the construction site by sweeping neighboring paved areas at the end of each work day (SC-7)	
Cover stockpiles at least one day before predicted storms (WM-3)	 <p data-bbox="1175 722 1325 747">Plastic cover</p> <p data-bbox="1175 856 1500 957">Fiber rolls or gravel bags to protect perimeter and hold plastic in place</p>
Washout concrete only to designated, lined area only (WM-8)	 <p data-bbox="1123 1205 1260 1230">Plastic liner</p>

Additional required practices:

- Clean up trash regularly, store in designated area, and dispose appropriately (WM-5)
- No water other than rain is allowed to leave the site (NS-1, NS-2, NS-6, NS-7)

Applicant Certification

I have reviewed the above construction water quality protection practices and will use them at my construction site. I understand penalties may apply for non-compliance.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Site Address: _____

Role: Owner Contractor Other (Describe: _____)

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