

Erosion Control Do's and Don'ts

Do plan erosion control BMPs to keep soil on the site.

Don't let the soil on your construction site wash off-site into roadside channels, streams, lakes, or wetlands.

Do consult the County Soil Survey to learn about building or drainage limitations, and which plants will grow best in your soils.

Don't wait until work has started to discover the soils on your site are wet, highly erodible or otherwise unsuitable for your project.



Do plan and manage stormwater drainage and E&S control as part of construction operations.

Don't depend on emergency measures or the weather.

Do check on local, state, and federal permit requirements and obtain any required permits before undertaking any work in water.

Don't impact springs, streams, floodways, wetlands, and other bodies of water.

Do leave natural vegetation whenever possible - it's the least expensive and easiest erosion control BMP available.

Don't disturb natural vegetation, unless or until necessary.



Do prepare a good seedbed; apply lime and fertilizer prior to seeding. Use mulches of hay, straw, or other suitable materials to promote germination and protect the soil until grass is established.

Don't plant grass or other cover on sloping ground without mulch or matting to hold the seed and soil in place.

Do plan construction to keep the area and time of exposure to a minimum. Permanently stabilize disturbed areas as they are completed.

Don't allow areas that are not actively under construction to remain disturbed. Stabilize with mulch or temporary seeding.

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BEFORE YOU GRADE, BUILD, OR EXCAVATE

Plan to Protect Pike County's Soil and Water Resources

The Role of Conservation Districts



Pennsylvania's conservation districts, as legal subdivisions of state government, work under delegation agreements with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) to administer erosion control and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) regulations within county boundaries.

Responsibilities under these agreements include review of Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) and Post Construction Stormwater Management (PCSM) plans, investigation of complaints, inspection of earth disturbance sites, processing of NPDES permits, and providing technical assistance and educational materials.

Conservation districts can also provide information on other state and federal regulations and permit requirements pertaining to streams, wetlands, and other bodies of water.



Pike County
Conservation District

Soil + Water = Pollution!

You may be surprised to learn that soil - yes, good old dirt - is the number one pollutant to Pennsylvania's water resources. The good news is much can be done to prevent soil or "sediment" pollution of our shared water resources: the streams, rivers, lakes, and wetlands of Pike County.

This brochure will explain how sediment pollution is created, existing state and federal regulations designed to address the problem, and what we can do to help minimize sediment pollution.



Wind and water move mountains

Erosion and **sedimentation** are naturally occurring processes. Erosion is the wearing away of bedrock and soil layers by wind and rain action. Sedimentation occurs when soil particles or "sediments" are carried by wind or water and deposited at another location - frequently a stream, river, pond, or wetland (collectively referred to as "surface waters"). Many human activities greatly increase rates of erosion and sedimentation, resulting in excess amounts of sediment entering surface water, seriously degrading these aquatic habitats.

Fish and Muddy Waters

Sediment creates a toxic environment for fish and other aquatic life. Examples of the impacts of sediment pollution include:

- Contamination of waters with pollutants, including garden and lawn care chemicals, which adhere to soil sediments.
- Accelerated rates of aquatic plant growth in lakes and streams spurred by excess nutrients including nitrogen and phosphorus.
- Impacts to fish and other aquatic life due to nesting and spawning being filled in with sediment.
- Increased frequency and intensity of flooding as sediment clogs waterways.
- Contamination of public water supplies and increased filtration costs.

Keeping It On Site

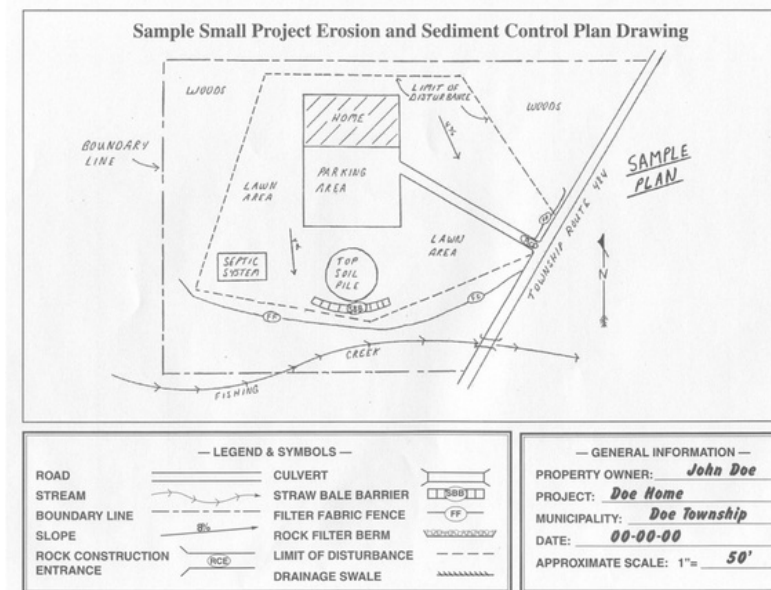
Earth Disturbance occurs when land use activities result in plants and forest litter being removed, exposing bare soil to the forces of wind and water.

In Pike County, commercial and residential development, timber harvesting, and road maintenance and drainage improvements are all examples of land use activities that create earth disturbance. These activities can result in increased rates of erosion and sedimentation and potential pollution of surface waters. Persons proposing or conducting earth disturbance activities are required by Pennsylvania state regulations to develop, implement, and maintain **Best Management Practices (BMPs)** to minimize erosion and sedimentation from project sites. Installing silt fence, mulching, fertilizing, liming, and seeding disturbed areas and maintaining existing vegetation, including vegetated streamside "buffers", are a few examples of BMP's used to prevent sediment pollution.

A Plan of Action

Developing and implementing an **Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan (E&S Plan)** is a highly effective way to minimize soil erosion and sedimentation from earth disturbance sites.

An E&S Plan must be in writing and available at all times on site, activity when ever the potential exists for the discharge of sediment to waters designated as either "High Quality" or "Exceptional Value" (*which includes most of Pike County*).



E&S Plans should be site specific and include maps illustrating the project site area, proposed alterations, BMP's for each project phase and a maintenance program for control measures.

Resources are available at the Conservation District to assist with the development of an E&S plan including an **Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines for Small Projects** and, for larger more complex projects, the PA DEP's **Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control Program Manual**.

Conservation District staff can answer questions and provide assistance with the completion of an E&S Plan. Engineers or other consultants can also assist in the development of E&S Plans.

It's the Law!

To address the problem of sediment pollution, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) adopted **Chapter 102 Erosion and Sediment Control Rules and Regulations**. Under Chapter 102, persons proposing or conducting earth disturbance activities are required to develop, implement, and maintain E&S BMPs to minimize the potential for erosion and sedimentation and to manage post construction stormwater to protect water quality.

An E&S Control Plan must be submitted to the Conservation District for review if required by a local municipality, as part of another permit, or if requested by the Conservation District. In addition, under the Federal Clean Water Act, projects that have 1 acre or more of earth disturbance over the life of the project or part of a common plan of development may require an NPDES Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activities.

Local Regulations May Apply

Prior to starting any earth disturbance activity, check with your local municipality regarding local ordinances or permit requirements that may apply to your project.

Remember...

It is the responsibility of any person undertaking an earth disturbance activity to complete and implement an E&S Plan. Failure to do so can result not only in pollution of surface waters, but also in violation of DEP's Chapter 102 Erosion and Sediment Control Rules and Regulations.