

What is erosion and sediment control?

Erosion and sediment controls prevent soil, sand, and other materials from being washed or blown off a building site and into stormwater drains.

Sediment runoff can affect the health and enjoyment of our precious rivers, harbours, and other waterways. It can also cause blockages, flooding, and harm marine life.

Why do need I need erosion and sediment controls?

- If you're building a home, renovating, or landscaping, you must use erosion and sediment controls on your site. Many councils also require a control plan before work begins.
- Using erosion and sediment controls helps reduce costs and prevents delays by avoiding the need to replace materials or pay hefty fines.
- Effective controls keep you, your workers, and the community safe, and protect our waterways and environment.

Don't risk getting fined!

Penalty Notices or 'On-the-Spot fines' are issued under the POEO (Protection of the Environment Operations) Act for offences such as water pollution or ignoring clean-up notices.

In 2024, fines increased with higher penalties for repeat offences:

- **$15,000 for a first offence and $22,500 for a second offence for individuals**
- **$30,000 for a first offence and $45,000 for a second offence for corporations.**

What is the Get the Site Right?

'Get the Site Right' is a joint taskforce of local councils, catchment groups, and the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), which targets erosion and sediment control on commercial and residential building sites across NSW.

We work with developers, builders, and the community to raise awareness about the harmful effects of sediment runoff on our creeks, rivers, harbours and beaches – highlighting the important role they play in helping to improve water quality and protect our natural environment and wildlife.

For more information on how to improve erosion and sediment control on your site, contact your local council or visit:
georgesriver.org.au/get-the-site-right

GET THE SITE RIGHT IS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

Cooks River Alliance
Georges Riverkeeper
NSW EPA
Parramatta River Catchment Group
Sydney Coastal Councils Group
WaterNSW

SEE A SITE THAT'S NOT RIGHT?

Report pollution incidents, including poor erosion and sediment control, to your local council or the EPA's 24/7 Environment Line on 131 555.

Published: March 2025

IS YOUR SITE RIGHT?

Helpful tips for home builders, renovators, landscapers, and DIY enthusiasts



GET THE SITE RIGHT

SAVE TIME, MONEY, AND PROTECT OUR BEAUTIFUL WATERWAYS

Whether you're building, renovating, or landscaping, properly managing your site not only prevents sediment runoff, building waste, and litter from polluting our waterways, it saves you time and money replacing valuable materials and avoiding costly fines.

GET THE SITE RIGHT

PREVENT SEDIMENT RUNOFF

INSTALL SEDIMENT FENCING



Place sediment fences around the perimeter of your site to trap soil before it reaches stormwater drains.

KEEP VEGETATION ON SITE



Leave as much vegetation on the site and street verge as possible during construction, to stabilise soil and reduce erosion.

ESTABLISH STABILISED SITE ACCESS



Use large gravel or rock to create a stable entry/ exit pad, preventing sediment leaving the site and washing into drains.

TIDY YOUR SITE DAILY



Collect any loose soil, sand, and other sediment daily, and never hose or sweep it into the gutter or stormwater drain.

PREPARE FOR WET WEATHER

MONITOR WEATHER FORECASTS



Keep track of weather conditions, such as rain and high wind, to prepare your site and prevent erosion or flooding.

CHECK AND MAINTAIN CONTROLS



Ensure sediment fences and other controls are well-maintained. Repair or replace any damaged sections as needed.

COVER STOCKPILES



Securely cover any piles of soil, sand, mulch, and other building materials to prevent them from washing or blowing away.

KEEP STORMWATER DRAINS CLEAR



Check stormwater drains around your property for sediment, building waste, or leaf litter to prevent blockages and flooding.

MANAGE LITTER AND WASTE

STORE WASTE SECURELY



Place building waste and loose litter in a bin with a tight-fitting lid or skip that is covered securely.

CONDUCT REGULAR CLEAN-UPS



Tidy your site regularly, especially before rain, to remove small items of litter and other waste that can be washed away.

WASH EQUIPMENT WISELY



Clean equipment such as cement trowels, paint brushes, and trays in a designated area, away from stormwater drains.

RECYCLE AND DISPOSE RESPONSIBLY



Separate recyclable materials and dispose of hazardous chemicals and other building waste correctly.