

Facts about Sediment

- The Environmental Protection Agency lists sediment as the most common pollutant in rivers, streams, lakes and reservoirs.
- While natural erosion produces nearly 30 percent of the total sediment in the United States, accelerated erosion from human land disturbing activities accounts for the remaining 70 percent.
- The most concentrated sediment releases come from construction activities, even relatively minor home-projects .



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Rockdale County Erosion Control





Introduction

The Erosion and Sediment Control Program was set up to improve and Protect Georgia's urban soil and water resources by reducing the amount of erosion from urban development sites. The program does this through the use of best management practices (BMP's) as called for in the soil and water conservation districts law and delivered through soil and water conservation districts. The program educates local government and professionals to meet Georgia's standards for land disturbing activities.

Anyone involved in land development, design, review, permitting, construction, monitoring, inspection, or any land disturbing activity in Georgia must meet education requirements and be certified by the GSWCC program developed in consultation with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and the Stakeholder Advisory Board.. If your E&SC plan does not show a vegetative buffer around a site but there is an area on the perimeter that does not require clearing, then save the existing vegetation! A good vegetative buffer 25'-35' can trap 85-95% of the sediment in runoff water.

If a site is properly engineered, cut and fill slopes can be mulched or vegetated daily. Mulch does not require water or fertilizer or lime. A good application of mulch can reduce soil loss by up to 98%.

Use conventional planting methods, when feasible sodding may initially be more expensive ... but how much more? If a site has to be re-planted several times, then it just may be cheaper to sod rather than seed bare slopes. Even if the sod should die, most sodded areas will protect bare areas from erosion during the duration of the land-disturbing activity.

What is Sediment pollution?

Sediment is the loose sand, clay, silt and other soil particles that clouds water and settling to the bottom of our watersheds. Sediment comes from soil erosion or from the decomposition of plants and animals. Wind, water, and ice help carry these particles to creeks, streams, rivers, lakes and oceans.

