What are the responsibilities of Stafford's Erosion and Sediment Control Division?

- Maintain documentation, permit applications, checklists, and record keeping.
- Review of individual lot-grading pans.
- Inspect to ensure that, as a first step in any land disturbing activity, erosion and sediment control measures must be installed.
- Inspect devices including sediment basins, sediment traps, perimeter dikes, silt fences, construction entrances, stream crossings and inlet controls.
- Inspect permanent stormwater improvements including storm sewers, detention-retention ponds, orifice plates, risers at dam structures and permanent seeding.
- Train and State-certify all County inspectors.

Enforcement Includes:

- ***Field Correction Notice (Notice to Comply)*** — Once a deficiency is found, the inspector sends the job superintendent a notice telling them the deficiency, what is necessary to correct it and the timeframe for compliance.
- ***Stop Work Order***— If grading continues in spite of a notice to comply, the inspector issues a stop work order telling the contractor to stop all work until such time as the deficiency is corrected.

Contact Stafford County about Erosion and Sediment Control Concerns!

Check out the following website for additional information regarding erosion and sediment control:

- *Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) :*

  http://www.cwp.org/esc_practices.htm

Erosion Control and Stormwater Inspections and Enforcement (During Construction)

Erosion and Sediment Control Division
Department of Code Administration
(540) 658-8650

Drainage Complaints (After Construction)

Department of Public Services
(540) 658-4900
jgoldhardt@co.stafford.va.us

Stafford County Department of Code Administration
1300 Courthouse Road, PO Box 339
Stafford, Virginia 22555
Phone: 540-658-8560

http://www.co.stafford.va.us/code

Stafford County, Virginia

Erosion and Sediment Control

Stafford County has established programs to comply with environmental regulations and protect the interest of the community. Please review the information below to learn more about what the County is doing to address erosion and sediment control.

What is Stafford County doing for Erosion and Sediment Control?

Stafford County's Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance (County Code Chapter 11) is not only in compliance with State regulations, but goes above and beyond to further protect Stafford County's water resources.

The County requires that Erosion and Sediment Control plans are submitted for land disturbing activities. The County reviews the plans, inspects erosion and sediment control measures during the construction process, and enforces the Erosion and Sediment Control requirements.

The Department of Public Services manages drainage complaints (after construction). The Erosion and Sediment Control Division of the Department of Code Administration manages inspections and enforcement during construction.

Erosion and Sediment Control in Stafford County, Virginia

What is Erosion?

Erosion is the process of soil detachment caused by wind or water. It is called accelerated erosion when it is caused by the denuding or disturbance of land. Sediment is detached soil associated with water— either in suspension or settled out somewhere different from where it originated.

Land development and lot clearing causes additional loosening of soil and contributes to increased rates of erosion.

What are the impacts of uncontrolled Erosion and Sediment?

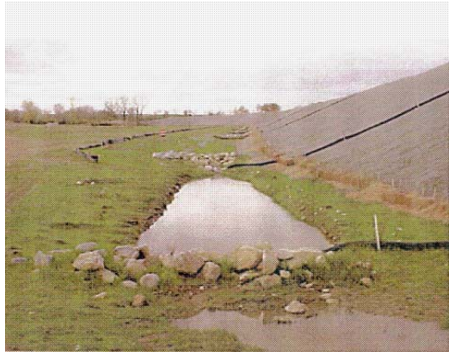
- **On a small scale**— erosion is unsightly, unsafe and could potentially reduce the value of your property.
- **On a large scale**— erosion causes serious environmental problems by making stream and river water cloudy, which can kill plants and water animals. It may also increase the chance of flooding by filling the storm drain system!
- **If not corrected**— erosion can expand to a major wash-out, with much higher repair costs.

What is Erosion and Sediment Control?

Stafford County requires that an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan be submitted for land disturbing activities. Erosion control is a proactive process of trying to prevent the detachment process from occurring. Erosion control products and practices attempt to minimize that energy by covering the soil or conditioning it in some manner. Sediment control is containing the sediment on the construction site, after it has become mobile. And once it becomes mobile, it can be very difficult to control.

Basic Principles for Erosion and Sediment Control Include:

- Plan the development to fit the particular topography, soils, drainage patterns and natural vegetation of the site.
- Minimize the extent of the area exposed at one time and duration of exposure.
- Apply erosion control practices to prevent excessive on-site damage.
- Apply permimeter control practices to protect the disturbed area from off-site runoff and to prevent sedimentation damage to areas below the development
- Keep runoff velocities low and retain runoff on the site.
- Stabilize disturbed areas immediately after final grade has been attained.
- Implement a thorough maintenance and follow-up program.



Typical Erosion and Sediment Control Practices Include:

- Sediment basins,
- Sediment traps,
- Perimeter earthen berms,
- Silt fences,
- Construction entrances,
- Stream crossing protection, and
- Inlet protection.

What you can do:

If you see uncontrolled erosion or sediment leaving a construction site — contact the Department of Code Administration at 540-658-8650.