

## **Erosion and Sediment Control**

Any land disturbance of over 500 square feet within a subdivision, over 2,500 square feet on the Bayside portion of Accomack County, or over 10,000 square feet anywhere within the county, requires an Erosion and Sediment Control Permit, except for the following exemptions:

- Minor land-disturbing activities and individual home landscaping, repairs and maintenance work;
- Individual service connections;
- Installation, maintenance or repair of underground public utility lines when such activity is confined to an existing hard surfaced road, street or sidewalk;
- Septic tank lines or drainage fields unless included in an overall plan for land-disturbing activity relating to construction of the building to be served by the septic tank system;
- Surface or deep mining;
- Exploration or drilling for oil and gas including the well site, roads, feeder lines and off-site disposal areas;
- Tilling, planting or harvesting of agricultural, horticultural or forest crops, or livestock feedlot operations; including a specific list of engineering operations;
- Repair or rebuilding of the tracks, right-of-way, bridges, communication facilities and other related structures, and facilities of a railroad company;
- Agricultural engineering operations including but not limited to the construction of terraces, terrace outlets, check dams, desilting basins, dikes, ponds not required to comply with the provisions of the Virginia Dam Safety Act, ditches, strip-cropping, lister furrowing, contour cultivating, contour furrowing, land drainage and land irrigation;
- Installation of fence, sign, telephone, electric, or other kinds of posts or poles;
- Shore erosion control projects on tidal waters when the projects are approved by local wetlands boards, the Marine Resources Commission or the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers; and
- Emergency work to protect life, limb or property, and emergency repairs.

If you are not sure if an E&S permit is required for your proposed project, please contact the Department of Building, Planning, and Zoning for more information.

Small projects and single family residential home development may be permitted with an “Agreement in Lieu of an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan” rather than requiring a full E&S Plan.

**Instructions for Erosion and Sediment Control**  
**Plan Submission**

**1. Check with local program administrator for permitting requirements:**

Contact:  
Sandy Manter, County Planner  
Department of Building, Planning & Zoning  
P.O. Box 93  
Accomac, VA 23301  
(804) 787-5726  
(804) 787-8948 Fax

**2. Submit:**

- A. Erosion and Sediment Control Permit application with sections I & II completed and signed
- B. An erosion and sediment control plan, consisting of a narrative and site plan (prepared in accordance with The Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook).
- C. Fee of \$100. Make checks payable to Treasurer of Accomack County.

Your plan will be reviewed and evaluated. If changes are required, you will be notified and advised of them. A revised plan may be required.

Upon final approval of your plan, your land-disturbing permit will be issued.

## Standards

All regulated land disturbing activities must comply with the 19 Minimum Standards established by the Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Law. A pamphlet with outlines the Minimum Standards can be downloaded here. (MSPamphlet pdf file)

### Basic Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Measures

- **STABILIZATION:** All disturbed and denuded areas shall be permanently stabilized with permanent vegetation or a protective ground cover suitable for the time of year within seven (7) days of final grading; or temporarily seeded within seven (7) days if soil surfaces are not to be final graded for a period of thirty (30) days or more (seeding shall be performed in accordance with Reference Standards and Specifications 3.31 and 3.32 of the Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook).
- **PERIMETER CONTROLS:** Properties and waters (creeks, streams, tidal shores and wetlands) and drainage channels and ditches adjacent to the site shall be protected from deposit of sediment. This may be accomplished through the preservation of a well vegetated buffer strip around the lower perimeter of the land disturbance, by installing perimeter controls such as sediment barriers (silt fences or straw bales) or sediment basins or dikes, or any combination of such measures.
  - \* Vegetated buffer strips may be used alone only where runoff in sheet flow is expected and such strips are at least twenty (20) feet in width. If at any time the buffer strip alone is ineffective in stopping sediment movement onto an adjacent property or into adjacent waters, additional perimeter controls must be provided.
- **STORMWATER RUNOFF:** Properties and waters downstream from new development sites shall be protected from erosion or sediment deposits due to increased volume, velocity, and peak flow rate of stormwater run off. Increased sheet flows that may cause erosion or sedimentation must be diverted to a stable outlet, an adequate channel, or a detention facility. Concentrated run-off channeling from a site must be discharged directly into an adequate natural or man-made receiving channel, pipe or storm drain system. (An “adequate channel” is a ditch, stream, swale, or channel that will convey a normal amount of stormwater run-off without overflowing its banks, and without causing erosive damage to the bed, banks, and overbank sections of the watercourse).
- **DRIVEWAY CONNECTIONS:** Driveways connecting to public roads or streets must be stabilized to reduce the amount of mud, dirt and sand transported onto the public roads. This requires a pad of stone or other stable material or surface at least twelve (12) feet wide and seventy (70) feet long. Also, a Road/Highway Access Permit must be obtained from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the access must be installed to meet VDOT construction and drainage specification.
- **PERMANENT DRIVEWAYS AND** shall be designed, constructed and maintained to minimize erosion by providing a compacted base and stabilized surface of erosion-resistant

material, including an initial base course of gravel of a least six (6) inches. Roadside ditches and swales shall be provided, designed and constructed to accomplish the above stormwater runoff objectives. All such ditches, swales, cuts and files, and disturbed areas adjacent to parking areas shall be stabilized with appropriate permanent vegetation.

**MAINTENANCE:** Maintenance shall be performed as required to (1) provide periodic top dressing with new gravel (2) ensure healthy and vigorous vegetation in seeded areas, and (3) ensure that all ditches, swales, and other drainage structures do not become clogged with silt or other debris.