

# DUST SUPPRESSION DURING CONSTRUCTION

Dust suppression during construction is important not only to the environment but also the developer/builder. The generation of dust can cause detrimental effects to the health and amenity of neighbours and employees, reduced visibility on site, increased wear on machinery and equipment and complaints from neighbours.

Where building work generates dust, all reasonable and practicable measures should be taken to minimise that dust. However, water is a precious commodity and it is up to everyone to minimise usage. The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) advises developers/builders to seek alternatives to the use of mains water on construction sites.

## ALTERNATIVES TO WATER

Dust suppression measures could include but are not limited to:

- > retaining existing vegetation where possible
- > staging works to minimise areas of disturbance at any one time before working on other areas
- > using an environmentally friendly chemical spray to
- > bind soil together thus stabilising unused soil
- > restricting speed of vehicles onsite
- > using temporary grassing
- > using jute mesh
- > using bitumen straw mulching
- > using bitumen spraying
- > using hydro-mulching and seeding
- > covering stockpiles and locating them where they are protected from the wind
- > covering the load when transporting material
- > constructing wind breaks such as wind fences in accordance with NSW Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction (Landcom, 2004) and
- > ceasing work in dry and windy conditions.



**When an area of works is completed, the area should be revegetated immediately to inhibit the generation of dust.**

Water can be used for dust suppression purposes from a temporary onsite sediment control pond provided the pond is detailed in an EPA approved pollution control plan. A licence to take water is not required in this case.

In addition, to gain access to bulk water, a standpipe can be hired from Icon Water on 6248 3111 or [talktous@iconwater.com.au](mailto:talktous@iconwater.com.au). For more information visit [www.iconwater.com.au](http://www.iconwater.com.au)

Please refer to the Environment Protection Guidelines for Construction and Land Development in the ACT for more detailed information on dust suppression at [www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au](http://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au).