WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?
Sediment in our waterways blocks our drains, pollutes our creeks, lakes and rivers and has a major impact on water quality, aquatic plants and animals. It can also obstruct roadways and bike paths causing hazards, reduce storage volume of reservoirs and increase filtration costs for municipal water supplies.

Tips to minimise wastewater:
- Identify trees and vegetation areas to be kept.
- Avoid clearing vegetation and excavating until building commences.
- Divert upslope water around the worksite and ensure dirty water does not leave the site.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?
It is the responsibility of the developer/builder to ensure that erosion and sediment control measures are in place before work commences and adequately maintained throughout construction.

Ensure all workers (including subcontractors, delivery drivers etc) are aware of their responsibilities to minimise pollution.

KEEP EXISTING VEGETATION
- Decide what areas of vegetation you are going to keep on site.
- Rope off or fence the vegetation and grassed areas you are going to keep to help prevent future damage to the surface of the site.
- Protect areas close to the boundary, drains and gutters, and where surface water flows may carry sediment off site.

Vegetation helps protect the soil from the effects of rain and surface water by:
- Acting as a cushion. Raindrops are unable to move soil particles when they hit the surface.
- Slowing the flow of water across the ground. Fast flowing water is able to carry more soil particles off site.
- Roots holding the soil together so it cannot be moved.
- Grassed areas acting as a filter by trapping soil particles.

DIVERSION/CATCH DRAIN
Diversion/catch drains reduce the amount of water travelling across a sloped surface. A diversion /catch drain stops water upslope of your site flowing across the site.
- Dig a trench on high side of block.
- The trench should be about 150mm deep with a curbed shape.
- The trench gradient should be less than 5%.
- Water must be managed on your site - it must not be discharged off site.
EARLY DOWNPIPE CONNECTION

Aim to have downpipes connected to a rainwater tank or the stormwater system as soon as the roof is on. If this is not possible, use a temporary connection such as flexible tubing or other temporary connection. Connecting downpipes to a rainwater tank or the stormwater system has a number of benefits:

- Less drainage problems on site.
- Less mud on site after rain.
- A safer site.
- Less downtime after storms, so projects get finished sooner.

PIPE ROOF WATER ONTO A GRASSED AREA

- If you cannot connect to a rainwater tank or the stormwater system, pipe the water away from the building onto a vegetated area or where there is good ground cover on your site.
- This lets water seep into the ground with less damage to the surface of the soil.
- Water must not be discharged off site.

REMEMBER: Under the Environment Protection Act 1997 it is an offence to allow waste (including soil) to enter the stormwater system from your building site. Penalties can range from $100 on the spot fines to court fines of up to $50,000, six months in jail and a criminal record.

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