WHAT ARE SEDIMENT CONTROLS?
Sediment control assist in filtering sediment (soil, sand and dust) from water entering the stormwater system. It is essential that sediment controls are installed on all building sites to ensure soil does not enter the stormwater system. Regular maintenance of sediment controls is essential to their success.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?
Sediment in our waterways pollutes our creeks, lakes and rivers and has a major impact on water quality, aquatic plants and animals. Sediment can clog streams, reduce the storage volume of reservoirs, and increase filtration costs for municipal water supplies.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?
It is the responsibility of the developer/builder to ensure that erosion and sediment controls 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.

- Sediment controls must be in place prior to commencement of works.
- Sediment controls must be retained until the site is fully stabilised after building work has been completed.
- Check controls daily and maintain as appropriate.

TYPES OF CONTROLS
There is a range of sediment controls available including:

- Sediments fences are the best means of controlling sediment. If maintained correctly will last up to six months. They are designed to allow water to flow through and trap soil.
- Straw bales should only be used in conjunction with sediment fences. They have a limited life span and can pollute drains as they start to break down.
- Grassed buffers (vegetation strips) are an excellent additional filter after a sediment fence. They should be maintained throughout construction.

BUILD A SEDIMENT FENCE

CONSTRUCTION NOTES
- Identify the low point of a site.
- Put in star pickets.
- Spread the volume of water.
- Dig a trench along the fence line.
- Fix geotextiles to posts.

Identify the low point of site

- This is the point where the land will allow water to carry sediment off the building site.
- Construct a sediment fence parallel to contours of site or as close as possible.
**Put in star pickets**
- Put 1.5m star pickets no more than 2-3m apart and 600mm deep.

**Spread volume of water**
- Put a star picket 1.5m upslope of the others every 20m (if the fence is longer than 20m). This spreads the volume of water that flows through each section of fence.

**Dig a trench along the fence line**
- The trench will be used to bury the base of the sediment control fabric. The trench should be 200mm deep.
- Alternatively, use backfill or aggregate to make sure the fabric is tight on the ground.
- Ensure water cannot go underneath the fabric.

**Fix geotextile to posts**
- Do not use filter cloth or shade cloth, as they are not effective sediment control measures.
- Use wire ties to attach the geotextile fabric to the upslope side of the fence posts.
- If you need to join two pieces of fabric, ensure the fabric overlaps at least 150mm and is supported by a star picket.

**Dust control**
Dust contributes significantly to sediment issues due to wind erosion. Where work generates dust, all reasonable and practicable measures should be taken to minimise that dust. This can often be achieved by:
- Retaining existing vegetation where possible.
- Stripping areas progressively and only where it is necessary for works to occur.
- Employing stabilisation methods such as matting, grassing or mulch.
- Dampering the ground with a light water spray. If additives in the water are used to increase its dust suppression properties, the chemical should have no adverse impact on adjacent water bodies.
- Roughening the surface of exposed soil.
- Covering stockpiles and locating them where they are protected from the wind.
- Restricting vehicle movements.
- Covering the load when transporting material.
- Constructing wind breaks such as wind fences.
- When an area of works is completed, the area should be revegetated immediately to inhibit the generation of dust.

**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.

It is essential that controls are installed as per an approved Erosion and Sediment Control plan.