



Rain Washing Away Sediment from a Bare Building Lot



Erosion of a Stream Bank



Person Sweeping Up Sidewalk



General Information

Sediments commonly enter stormwater as particles washed off from impervious surfaces (pavement, rooftops) or as erosion from stream banks or construction sites. Excessive sedimentation can change the light penetration of water, clog the gills of fish, negatively impact feeding and breeding in fish, and damage aquatic plants. Sediment also transports pollutants, such as bacteria, pathogens, nutrients and metals and can accumulate within stormwater infrastructure causing backups and flooding.

Best Management Practices:

- Sweep driveways of sediment after gardening or home improvement projects.
- Contact local municipalities to learn about state and local laws and mandatory erosion and sediment controls.
- Evaluate slope, soil type, proximity to a water body or stormwater infrastructure and time of year before beginning a project.
- Limit the amount of exposed soil for a project and protect vegetation that is already there.
- Regularly clean out and remove sediment from stormwater structures.
- Monitor sites to make sure erosion control efforts are installed correctly and working properly.

Additional Information:

EPA

<http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/sediments/>

http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/menuofbmps/index.cfm?action=factsheet_results&view=specific&bmp=59

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/menuofbmps/index.cfm?action=browse&Rbutton=detail&bmp=32>

NYSDEC

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/29066.html>

Other

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/construc/stormwater/temposoilstabilizationguide.pdf>