



## FACT SHEET (6)

### **STORAGE OF MATERIALS ON A HARD SURFACE**

This erosion and sediment control fact sheet is part of living for the future in a clean green Emerald.

#### **Storage of materials on a hard surface.**

Stockpiled building materials, such as sand and soil, can be a major source of sediment. Where practicable, these materials should be stockpiled within the sediment control envelope, and where necessary, covered with waterproof sheeting. However, it is recognised that in some circumstances it is not practical to store these materials in an area protected by sediment control structures. Building materials that could reasonably be expected to be removed from the property or storage site by wind, traffic movement, rainfall or other water, and as a result could reasonably be expected to enter a stormwater gutter, drain or waterway, may be temporarily stored/retained on hard surfaces in the following circumstances:

- where it is necessary to place erodible material on a hard surface, such as a road or driveway, to undertake work and no other reasonable options are available – placing the material on a nearby grassed area or in a mini skip.
- where there is accidental spillage or tracking of such material on a hard surface that cannot be prevented through reasonable means (for example, through stabilising access points with crushed rock or recycled concrete) In such cases, the material must be:
  - cleaned up immediately if rainfall, other water sources or erosive winds are imminent or occurring
  - removed by the end of the working day if rainfall, other water sources or erosive winds are not imminent or occurring.

These materials must not be stored/retained on a road reserve without first obtaining permission from the road authority (usually Emerald Shire Council). Material placed on the road reserve must not block traffic or cause a safety problem. If erodible materials are to be temporarily stored on a road, a suitable waterproof cover and sand bags should be available on site for use in case of unexpected rain and/or water from other sources. Flow diversion of stormwater run-off around the stockpile may also be required in the event of rain. Site supervisors must provide adequate facilities for storage and handling of building materials, especially erodible materials. This can be a critical factor in the management of building sites in high density areas.

## FACT SHEET (6)

### STORAGE OF MATERIALS ON A HARD SURFACE

(2)



*Stockpile not appropriately stored*

#### In the event of rain

If it is raining or about to rain while erodible materials are stockpiled on hard surfaces, and if these materials could reasonably be expected to flow into a stormwater gutter, drain or waterway, then all reasonable and practicable efforts must be taken to prevent or minimise sediment losses from the stockpile. If the materials cannot be moved to a location where erosion can be prevented and/or sediment controlled – for example, a well-grassed area – control measures could include:

- covering the stockpile with a waterproof and well-secured cover
- using sandbags or other non-erosive materials to divert up-slope water around the stockpile
- constructing a slightly porous dam downstream of the stockpile to trap sediment.

In the event of rain, roadside sediment collection dams should be constructed up-slope of gully inlets, but should only be short-term structures (refer Fact Sheet 7). No device should be used or installed if it is likely to cause a safety hazard. Alternative sediment control techniques may be required.

#### Cleaning methods

Erodible materials must be cleaned from the road or hard surface as soon as possible. To clean materials from hard surfaces, the bulk of the material should first be shoveled and swept onto an area enclosed by a suitable sediment barrier (eg. up-slope of a sediment fence). Cleaning the rest of the material from the surface (in order of priority) can be achieved by using one of the following options.

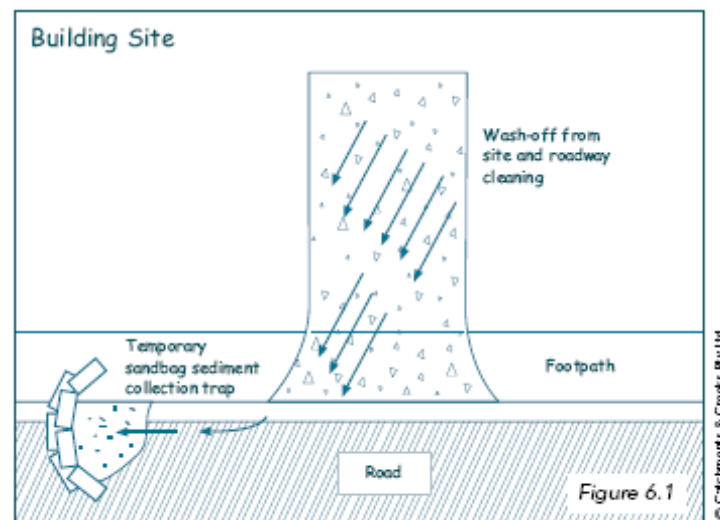
1. Manually sweeping the material onto an adjacent grassed or open soil surface where sediment controls are in place. Skid steer loaders (bobcats) with broom attachments may also be used.

**FACT SHEET (6)**

**STORAGE OF MATERIALS ON  
A HARD SURFACE**

**(3)**

2. Use of a vacuum unit (for example hired street sweeper), where the cost can be justified.
3. Finally, and only in circumstances if there is a safety hazard if the remaining material is left on the hard surface, the material may be washed from the surface into a temporary dam formed from slightly porous material eg. gravel-filled bags or clean aggregate. After allowing the excess water to drain from the dam, the retained material should be collected and disposed of in a location where it would not be expected to wash into a drain or waterway. Importantly, only use just enough water for the job (refer Figure 6.1)



Temporary sediment collection dams should only be used when it is unsafe to leave materials on the hard surface

**Note: Diagrams and selected photos courtesy of Catchments & Creeks Pty Ltd.  
Note:- Selected written material courtesy of Brisbane City Council  
& Environmental Protection Agency**