

# Storage of Material on A Hard Surface

## Controlling Stormwater Pollution Fact Sheet 7

### *Your Building Site*

The Whitsunday Regional Council has developed this erosion and sediment control fact sheet to assist in its goal to protect, enhance and promote its natural assets. Soil erosion, sediment and litter from building sites can be major sources of stormwater pollution and can cause significant harm to our sensitive marine environments like the Great Barrier Reef. Site supervisors must provide adequate facilities for storage and handling of building materials, especially erodable materials. Failing to appropriately manage the risk of stormwater pollution from your building site can lead to fines or prosecutions for companies, builders, subcontractors and individual workers.

Stockpiled building materials, such as sand and soil, can be a major source of sediment. These materials should be stockpiled within the sediment control zone and covered with waterproof sheeting.

Where building materials can not be stored in an area protected by sediment control measures or in a mini skip, hard surfaces may be used as a temporary measure.

Stockpiling of material on public footpaths and roads may not be permitted. Check with your local Council as fines may be applicable if stockpiles are placed in these areas without the prior approval of the relevant local authority.

### **Stockpile Protection**

Prior to the completion of each working day, the following measures to prevent movement of temporary stockpiles into the stormwater system or waterways by wind, rain or overland flow should be implemented.

- Sandbags placed on the downslope of the stockpile to prevent movement.
- A suitable waterproof/windproof cover to be placed over the stockpiled material.
- Use sandbags, filter bags or fibre sausages to divert upslope flow of stormwater into the grassed areas of the site and away from the stockpiled material.

On road reserves an approved temporary stockpile should have sandbags or geotextile bags filled with gravel around the stockpile. Materials placed on the road reserve must not block traffic or cause a safety problem.

### **Accidental Spills or Vehicle Tracking**

If accidental spills or tracking of soil occur on hard surfaces such as concrete driveways, rumble pads and public roads then the cleaning methods described overleaf should be implemented prior to the end of the working day.



Stockpile not appropriately stored

# Storage of Material on A Hard Surface

## Controlling Stormwater Pollution Fact Sheet 7

### In the Event of Rain

If it is raining or about to rain while erodible materials are stockpiled on hard surfaces, 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.

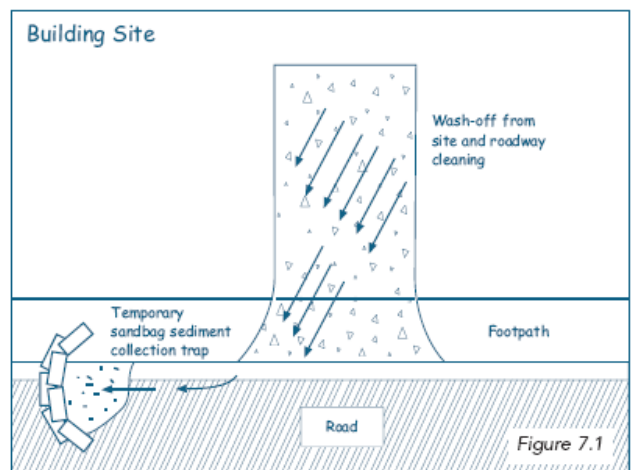
In the event of rain, roadside sediment collection dams should be constructed up-slope of gully inlets but should only be short-term structures (refer to Fact Sheet 4). No device should be used or installed if it is likely to cause a safety hazard. Where safety hazards cannot be managed (e.g. signage and/or safety barriers) alternative sediment control techniques may be required.

### Cleaning Methods

Erodable 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 shovelled and swept onto an area enclosed by a suitable sediment barrier (e.g. 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. Bobcats with broom attachments may also be used.
2. Use of 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 e.g. 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 to Figure 7.1).



### Further Details:

Whitsunday Regional Council

PO Box 104, Proserpine QLD 4800

Phone: (07) 4945 0200

Website: [www.whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au](http://www.whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au) E mail: [info@whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au)

*These fact sheets are based on those produced by the South East Queensland Healthy Waterways Partnership.*