## Checklist

*The following checklist will help assist you in ensuring that the appropriate factors have been considered prior to installing the system:*

☐ ***Evaluate the Site***: Before construction begins, evaluate the entire site, marking for protection of any important trees and associated rooting zones, unique areas to be preserved, streams, wetlands, potential hydric soils, and vegetation suitable for filter strips, especially in perimeter areas. Remember to call the *Ohio Utilities Protection Service (OUPS)* at 800-362-2764 48 hours before you dig, as well as the *Oil and Gas Producers Underground Protection Service* at 800-925-0988.

☐ ***Install Perimeter Controls:*** Identify the areas where sediment runoff could leave the construction site and install perimeter controls to minimize the potential for off-site sedimentation. This could include leaving a buffer strip, using silt fence, and protection of storm sewer inlets.

☐ ***Maintenance:*** Maintain all erosion and sediment control measures until construction is complete and the lot is stabilized. Inspect at least once per week and after a storm event. Sweep or scrape soil tracked onto roadways.

☐ ***Revegetate the Site:*** Immediately after all outside activities are complete, stabilize the lot with seed, sod, and mulch. Redistribute the stockpiled soil, and spread to a depth of 4-6 inches over rough-graded areas. Spread mulch on newly seeded areas.

☐ ***Remove Remaining Temporary Control Measures:*** Once the sod and/or vegetation is established, remove any temporary erosion and sediment control measures.

**This brochure created by the Staff of the Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District under the authority of the Board of Supervisors .**

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***Geauga SWCD Mission:***
*"To conserve, protect, and enhance the resources of Geauga County by providing leadership, education, and assistance to all."*



*Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District*

# A Homeowners Guide to Erosion and Sediment Control for Septic System Installations

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## Why Erosion and Sediment Controls?

Did you know that sediment is the product of erosion, and is one of the largest pollutants in Ohio's rivers and streams? Earth disturbing activities such as installation of new or replacement septic systems can contribute large quantities of sediment to streams. This sediment is then carried through ditches and other conveyances throughout the watershed and cause damage to lakes, streams, or rivers.

Sediment negatively impacts water quality by degrading the habitat of aquatic organisms and fish, impeding recreational opportunities, decreasing property value, and promoting the growth of weeds and algae. Sediment accumulation in ditches, streams, and lakes reduces their capacity, therefore increasing the chance of frequent flooding.

Why are sediment and erosion controls needed for this type of construction? Although this is not a new home or addition to an existing home, which may cause a fair amount of exposed soil, any excavation in the yard can still create a significant amount of soil exposure. During new construction, an extra cleared area is needed for the installation of the leach field and tanks which produces more exposed soil and the potential for the soil to runoff of the property. The need to keep this soil on site is critical so it can be kept out of rivers, lakes, and streams.

In a cooperative effort between the Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the Geauga County Health Department, the Geauga SWCD produced this fact sheet for homeowners installing septic systems to help ensure that sediment from this type of construction activity remains on site. Although an erosion and sediment control plan is not typically required for this type of construction activity alone, all homeowners on ***any size lot are required to comply*** with the intent of the Water Management and Sediment Control (WMSC) Regulations. The homeowner is ultimately responsible if these measures are not properly in place.

This brochure is designed to illustrate the most appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) for septic system installation and to help ensure any or all necessary measures are taken to prevent sediment from leaving the site and entering streams and rivers.

## Best Management Practices

The following Best Management Practices listed below are the most commonly used during septic system installations.

### ***Sediment Barriers or Silt Fence***

- Use to filter sheet flow runoff
- Install during clearing phase
- Silt fence should be installed downslope from the cleared area and wrap the ends upslope to avoid any sediment from getting around the ends
- Make sure it is installed correctly by entrenching the lower portion of barrier in the ground 4"-6" deep, so it can trap sediment and intercept runoff
- Use combination barriers when necessary, (i.e. straw bales combined with silt fence)
- Maintain until vegetation is established
- Do not use on steep slopes or concentrated flow areas


## Best Management Practices contd.

### ***Stockpile Placement and Protection***

- Build stockpiles away from critical areas such as streams, drainageways, and storm sewer inlets
- Temporarily seed or mulch immediately to protect against erosion

### ***Re-vegetation/Surface Protection***

***Ground cover is the most effective way to control sediment runoff, whether it be temporary or permanent***

- Use seed or sod to cover exposed soils after final grade completed
- Use temporary seed, such as annual rye, to stabilize pile until removed or re-graded
- Seed critical areas such as drainage swales, right-of-way areas, areas near curb inlets, buffer areas along streams and wetlands
- Mulching can be used when temporary seeding is not practical and can be done in any weather situation