

Stop that Dirt!-What Can You Do?



What can you do to Stop that Dirt?

The Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) encourages residents to be on the lookout for signs of offsite erosion from construction sites & other Marion County, Indiana areas, and to report problems found to Glenn Lange at the Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District. Phone- 317-786-1776 or email at glenn-lange@iaswcd.org. For potential problems located outside of Marion County, Mr. Lange may also be able to provide the agency contact information. The SWCD works with local government units in helping control such erosion and resulting sedimentation. Remember that you should not trespass, but many problems can be identified by casual observation in your normal travel routines or by a simple drive through on public access roadways around or in a construction site.

The following are some things to keep in mind and ideas of what to look for which would be considered an erosion control violation on an active construction site:

- Be aware of planning and zoning changes in your area
- Watch for site clearing and other activities suggesting development
- Watch for muddy water flowing down or in the street – where is it coming from?



Sediment in the streets

- Excessively muddy ditches or streams – trace upstream to find the source
- Look for mud tracked onto roadways to see if it is coming from a construction site



Sediment tracking on streets

- Construction Entrance – should have good stone coverage of the area where vehicles enter and exit the site. There should be little or no mud tracked onto the roadway. Somewhere near the entrance their Notice of Intent, contact person information and information regarding the location of the construction plan should be posted.

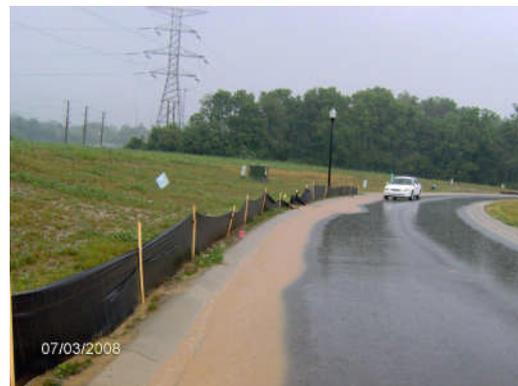


Poor construction site entrance

- Offsite sedimentation – there should be no visible sedimentation leaving the site. Accumulation of mud in roadside ditches or muddy water flowing off site during storm events should be reported to the SWCD.



Off-site stream pollution



Sediment be transported by rainfall

- Silt fences – should be located in various areas of the construction site where sheet flow could carry sediment offsite. They are often found around the perimeter of the site, around stockpiles of topsoil, across slopes and around storm sewer inlets. Properly installed silt fence should be properly entrenched with stakes on the downhill side. The soil should be tamped along the bottom buried ends. Sediment collected behind them should be routinely removed to ensure proper function. They should be placed so that water will not run around them.



Erosion & poorly maintained silt fence

- Steep slopes should be protected from erosion. This is often done by using silt fences to slow the water down and by using erosion control blankets to protect the banks until vegetation can be established



Good slope stabilization

- Stawbale dams – these are infrequently used but when they are should also be buried deep enough that water will not flow under them. They should be in good condition and bound tightly. Several bales should be placed together and offset to keep water from running around them and ensure that they stay in place.



Poor drop inlet protection- straw bales should not be used

- Storm drain inlets should be protected whether they are on the street or in drainage swales. There are various types of inlet protection.



Four good examples of inlet protection



Poor example of inlet protection

- Drainage swales should be protected by erosion control measures. Drainage pipe outlets and other areas of high stormwater should also be protected. They often have a rock rip rap base to slow the runoff coming out of the pipe.



Well managed erosion & sediment control

Swales should also have erosion control blankets placed along the flowline to stabilize them until vegetation can be established.



Good retention pond slope protection & soil stabilization

If you see sediment leaving a construction site or find an active construction site without erosion control measures such as silt fence installed, please contact the Marion County SWCD. You can call our office at (317)786-1776 or email our erosion control expert Glenn Lange at glenn-lange@iaswcd.org . Please include details as to the location of the site and where you noticed problems. You may use our erosion watch check list to help you identify and relate erosion problems to our office. Thank you for helping to improve water quality in our county.