

# Protected Stockpiles



***'Do it right on site' is a project to help the construction industry protect the environment and achieve the many benefits that come from doing so.***

## Protected Stockpiles What are they?

They are materials such as sand, gravel, topsoil, mulch and woodchip stored in a way that will not enter the stormwater system.

## Why are they important?

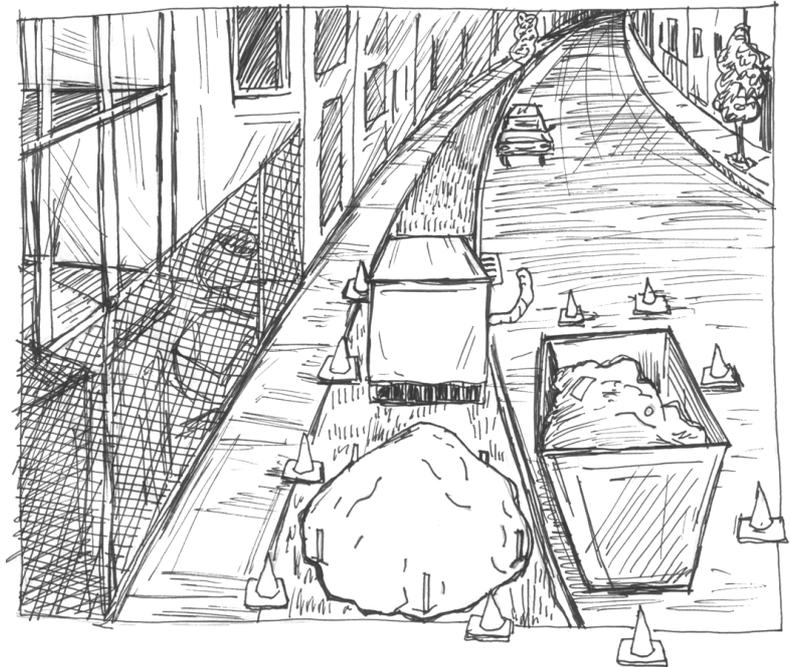
Stockpiles are at risk of being washed or blown away and polluting stormwater. Loose materials in heaps with steep sides and impervious foundations are most at risk. Not only does this affect the environment but it is expensive to the builder, increasing the amount of materials needing to be purchased for the development.

The environmental impact of these materials is significant. Mulch and woodchip decompose absorbing all the oxygen in the water resulting in suffocation of animals. Sediment settles making creeks shallower and smothering animals and plants that live on the creek beds. This shallower water depth also results in the sun's rays heating the water. Many native plants and animals can not survive in this hotter water and die.

## What do I need to do?

### Before building commences:

Identify a protected storage area for stockpiles. This should be inside the site under cover, away from stormwater flow paths, with erosion control measures such as sediment fence, gravel sausage or straw bales placed around them. If there is no room on site Council approval will be needed to store materials on the kerb or footpath. Materials should be stored in sand bags or bale/pallet containers with sediment controls around them. Document your storage area on the soil and water management plan and ensure staff are aware of its importance.

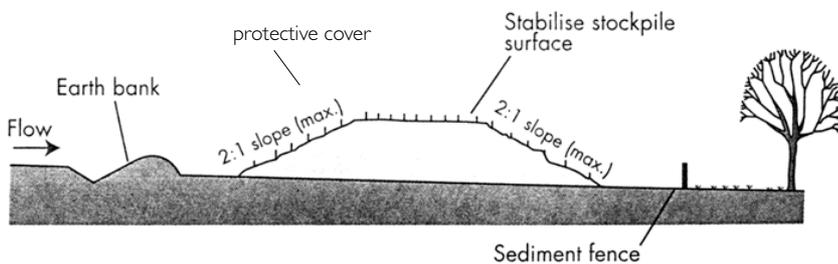


### Installing the controls:

1. Locate stockpile away from stormwater flow paths, roads and hazard areas (ideally at least 5m away).
2. Place on a level area as a low, flat, elongated mound.
3. Where there is sufficient area topsoil stockpiles shall be less than 2m in height.
4. Construct an earth bank on the upslope side to divert run off around the stockpile and a sediment fence 1 to 2 m downslope of the stockpile (or sand bag, gravel sausage).
5. Stockpiles should be covered during windy conditions, rain or unattended site periods.
6. Once the roof has been installed on the frame, move stockpiles inside.

### Maintenance of the controls:

Stockpiles should be checked and covered at the end of each day. Materials trapped by the down slope controls should be removed regularly to maintain their effectiveness. Built up material can be re-stockpiled, used on site or collected by an Earth Moving Company. Incorrect storage of stockpiles is a major source of stormwater pollution. All site workers, subcontractors, and delivery drivers should be advised of their responsibilities. Delivery drivers should be given a designated location to deliver materials on site.



### Remember:

Everyone has a responsibility to protect the environment. The site supervisor is required to make sure that all workers, including subcontractors are doing the right thing and all workers are required to notify their supervisors and Councils if they see pollution occurring.

It is illegal for any substance other than rainwater to enter the stormwater system. If you do have an accident and pollution occurs you are required by law to notify the Council so that they can work with you to minimise any harm to the environment.

Penalties for polluting the stormwater system range from \$750 on the spot fines to \$1 million and seven years in gaol. Both companies and individuals can be fined.

Council Officers and the EPA enforce the environmental legislation and do routine inspections of building sites. They can issue notices to make companies clean up sites, change the way they are managing the sites and if necessary, cease work. They will attempt to work with you but penalties will be issued if a satisfactory environmental outcome is not achieved.

## List of fact sheets available from Council:

1. Diversion of Upslope Water
2. Dust Control
3. Early installation of Roof Drainage
4. Excavation Pump Out
5. Protected Concrete, Brick and Tile Cutting
6. Protected Concrete Delivery
7. Protected Service Trenches
- 8. Protected Stockpiles**
9. Protected Wash Areas
10. Protected Waste Management and Chemical Storage
11. Protecting Vegetation
12. Protection of Gutter and Street Stormwater Drains
13. Protection of Site Stormwater Pits
14. Sediment Controls
15. Soil and Water Management Plans
16. Stabilised Site Access

For further information on preventing pollution from building and construction sites contact your local council:

'Do it right on site' is funded by the Natural Heritage Trust and the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils – Bankstown, Botany Bay, Canterbury, Hurstville, Kogarah, Marrickville, Randwick, Rockdale, South Sydney, Sutherland Shire, Waverley and Woollahra.

# THE DRAIN IS JUST FOR RAIN



Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils