Stablised Site Access

'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.

Stablised Site Access

What is it?

A single entry/exit point for the site that is stabilised to reduce the tracking of sediment off the site on to Council's road and the stormwater system.

Why is it important?

A stabilised track allows vehicles to enter and exit the site safely during all weather conditions without either destroying valuable grass or carrying large amounts of mud and dirt on to the paved road surfaces. It provides a clean, dry surface for vehicles to enter and unload. The stabilised site access has a rough coarse surface which traps mud from vehicle tyres as they roll across it.

Mud and dirt have significant impacts on our waterways. They smother animals and plants that live on the bottom of creek beds. They settle and make the creek shallower. Many native plants and animals can not survive this and die. Even though mud and dirt are 'natural' they are still serious pollutants that must be prevented from entering our waterways.

Fact Sheet 16

What do I need to do?

Before building commences:

Identify the best location to place the entry/exit point- ideally it should be in an elevated position with little or no water flowing to it from upslope and away from any down slope stormwater pits. All deliveries should be able to be made through this point. Document it on your Soil and Water Management Plan and ensure staff are aware of its importance.

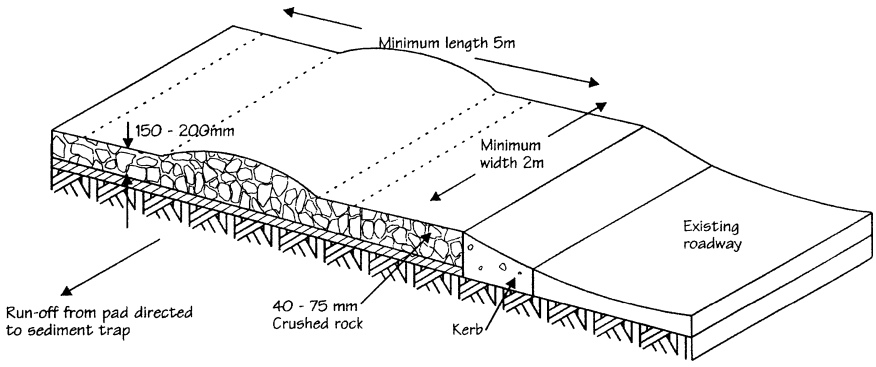
Installing the stablised access point:

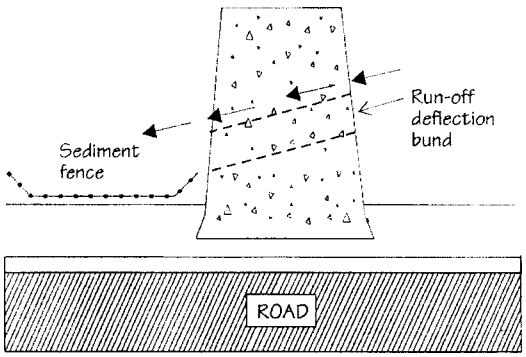
The recommended construction method for stabilising the access point is laying down 200mm of aggregate or recycled concrete greater than 40mm in size. (note: crushed sandstone is not suitable).

Where the access area slopes toward the road, a diversion hump should be installed across the stabilised area to direct stormwater run-off to the side where it can be filtered by a sediment fence. If the construction process enables it the permanent driveway can be laid and used as the access point.

Construction notes:

1. Strip at least 150mm of topsoil, level area and stockpile in space available
2. Compact subgrade
3. Cover area with needle punched geotextile
4. Construct a 200mm thick pad over geotextile using aggregate at least 40mm in size. Length ideally from kerb to building footprint.
5. Construct diversion hump 300mm thick immediately within boundary to divert water to a sediment fence or other sediment trap





On larger sites cattle grid or shaker grids can also be installed at the access point. These allow the wheels to turn a couple of times and shake off excess dirt. If mud still remains wheels can be washed as long as the wash water does not drain to the street. It should drain to a detention area on site to allow the sediment to settle out and the water to evaporate or can be pumped into undisturbed grassed areas where it can soak into the ground.

Maintenance of the stabilised access point:

As vehicles use the stabilised access point they will slowly compact the gravel or rock. If the access point becomes smooth it will no longer help control sediment as it is the rough surface that slows water flows and shakes off mud and dirt from tyres. It is therefore important to monitor the surface of the access point and to add new gravel or rock as needed. Roads should be inspected for any sediment that has escaped the site at the end of each day and swept if necessary. This should also be done when ever rain looks likely.

Remember:

Everyone has a responsibility to protect the environment. The site supervisor is required to make sure that all workers, including sub-contractors are doing the right thing and all workers are required to notify their supervisors and Council 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