

# Dust Control

**'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.**

## Dust Control

### What is it?

Dust control refers to minimising the amount of dust that enters the air and stormwater system from your site.

### Why is it important?

Dust blowing from your site has a four way impact. Firstly, it is a nuisance to neighbours which can result in poor relations or complaints about your company.

Secondly, it can result in adverse health effects like asthma in workers and others. Thirdly, blown away materials are blown away dollars, and finally, it is dangerous to the environment.

The environmental impact of dust and sediment is significant. They smother animals and plants that live on the bottom of creek beds and make the creeks shallower. They carry nutrients which can lead to algal blooms and fish kills, as well as weeds which can take over from native plants.

Even though mud and dirt are natural they are still serious pollutants that must be prevented from entering our waterways.

## Fact Sheet 2



### What do I need to do?

#### Before building commences:

Assess the dust potential of your site and decide on dust controls. If there is high risk of dust generation then barriers to divert the wind up and over the site can be constructed. These include shade cloth walls of height one-fifth the site length. Document controls on your Soil and Water Management Plan and ensure staff are aware of its importance.

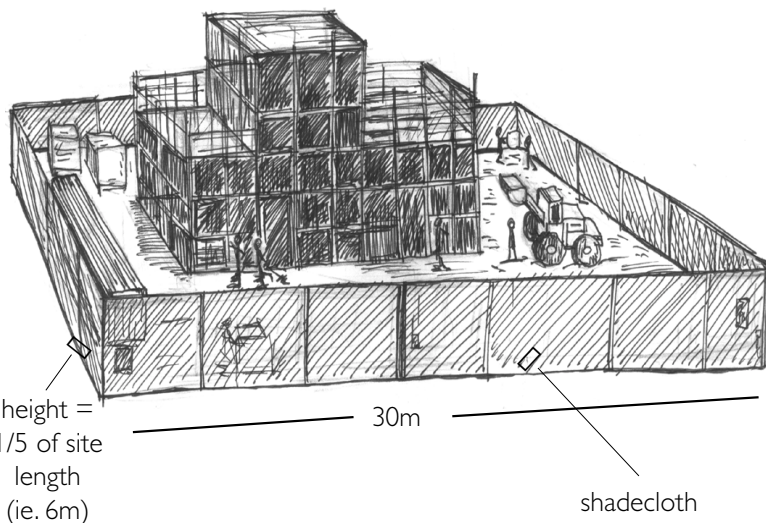
#### Installing the controls:

Good sediment management can alleviate most of the dust problem. Some of the steps that can be taken to minimise dust include:

- Maintain as much vegetation as possible
- Cover materials and stockpiles
- Ensure that all equipment has dust suppressors fitted
- Dampen the site slightly during excavation or when dust is being raised. Be careful not to wet it to the point of creating polluted runoff.
- Ensure that vehicles only leave via the stabilised site access
- Minimise the amount of the site that is disturbed at any one time

All of these actions will help to minimise the amount of sediment loose on the site and therefore the dust that can be generated.

If dust becomes too serious on windy days the best option is to cease work until wind conditions are suitable.

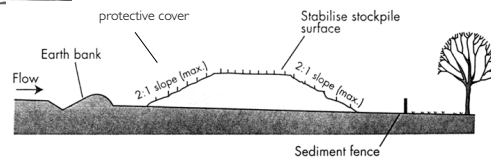


### Maintenance of the sediment controls:

Dust collected around sediment controls will need to be removed regularly to maintain effectiveness. Built up material can be restockpiled, used on site or collected by an Earth Moving Company.

Inspect and sweep roads at the end of each day and when rain is likely.

On larger sites dust monitoring should be undertaken. The National Health and Medical Research Centre (NHMRC) guidelines require an annual mean of  $90\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  for total suspended particulate.



### 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