

Why Should I Care about Dirt on the Street?

Dirt on streets is more than just unsightly. It clogs gutters, sumps and storm drains which can lead to flooding. This sediment not creates temporary obstructions, it can also shorten the lifespan of storm drainage structures, especially sumps.

Inflow of sediment can cloud water, blocking sunlight from submerged plants. Sediment also settles to the bottom of streams, clogging the gravel beds used by fish for laying their eggs.

Other pollutants often attach to sediment particles and can be transported far downstream in floods, spreading their toxic effects.



*If you wouldn't drink it ...
Don't dump it!*

Tracking Dirt from Construction Sites



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Keeping Dirt Off the Streets & Out of Stormwater Runoff

Mud and dirt from construction sites often cover our streets. This is especially true in times of rain and snow.

All that mud and dirt not only makes a big ugly mess, it can lead to flooding and cause damage to storm sewers. It even has the potential to pollute local water bodies or even our drinking water.

How can we limit the amount of dirt and mud tracked onto city streets from construction sites? Three common practices help to minimize tracking:

- Stabilized construction site entrances
- Tire washes
- Street Sweeping

Stabilized Construction Site Entrances

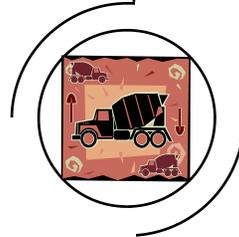
Construction site entrances can be stabilized to reduce the tracking of mud and dirt onto public roads by construction vehicles. These stabilized entrances should be used at construction sites:

- Where dirt or mud can be tracked onto public roads.
- Where poor soils are encountered.
- Where dust is a problem during dry weather conditions.

A properly maintained construction site entrance consists of a properly graded pad of 1" (or larger) angular gravel placed over a geotextile fabric. This pad should be 6" deep, 15' wide and 50' long and it should drain to a sediment trap. To maintain a construction entrance, re-screen or wash gravel, or apply additional rock to maintain effectiveness. Access to construction sites must be limited to properly maintained construction site entrances. Dirt that is tracked out must be cleaned daily.

Tire Washes

Tire wash stations are located at stabilized construction entrances to spray off sediment from tires and under-carriages, and to prevent sediment from being transported onto public roadways. Tire washes may be appropriate when stabilized entrances are not sufficient in preventing sediment from tracking onto adjacent roads. Tire washes should drain to sediment traps.



Street Sweeping

Street sweeping removes tracked sediment to prevent it from entering a storm drain. If sediment is tracked from a project site onto paved roads, vacuum sweeping trucks can clean up. If a sweeper truck is not available, cleanup can be accomplished with brooms and shovels. Sweeping and vacuuming may not be effective when soil is too wet or muddy however the soil should be moist to avoid dust. Sweeping should also take place before dirt becomes hard-packed onto the road. Inspect potential sediment tracking locations daily. Be careful not to sweep up any unknown substance or any object that may be potentially hazardous. After sweeping is finished, properly dispose of sweeper wastes.

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