

# WaterWatch



## Dirty Construction Sites

On March 10, 2003, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) enacted the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II. This update of the Clean Water Act mandated construction site operators to take a more active role in preventing erosion and controlling sediment from construction sites larger than one acre. Construction site operators were also required to address potential pollutants from leaving their sites as well.

The City of Orem has taken this one step further and amended its City Code to include these same requirements on any construction in the City. Before any activities begin on a construction site, each new development is re-

quired to have a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) in place.

The most common elements in a SWPPP are perimeter controls to limit access to the site, erosion and sediment controls, concrete washout areas and material storage precautions.

**Perimeter controls** include temporary chain link fences and orange construction control netting. These controls keep people from accessing the site from many places and limits access to points where sediment removal and tracking from the site can be minimized. At points of exit, most sites have gravel pads designed to shake mud off the vehicles as they leave the site.

**Erosion controls** keep the dirt in place so it can't wash away. Some common practices used to keep dirt in place are hydroseeding, erosion control blankets and straw mulch applied with a spray on tackifier.



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## Recycling Used Oil

- Many people choose to change the oil in their cars, trucks, boats and other gas powered tools themselves. This saves money but could lead to a potentially hazardous situation if those people do not know how to properly dispose of the used oil.
- For many years people have relied on the City of Orem's Public Works complex as a place to safely dispose of used oil and antifreeze. This year is different because in January plans were announced for a new complex at 1450 W 550 N. In anticipation of this move, the tank used to hold waste oil was removed from our current site in February.
- In January of 2007 we expect to have the oil recycling capabilities back online. Until then AutoZone, Checker Auto, NAPA and Pep Boys will accept your used oil. As far as antifreeze you can take it to Jiffy Lube at 91 N State (226-1150).
- The only things to remember are that all these sites will only accept five gallons of waste oil or antifreeze per person per day. They also will not accept oil mixed with antifreeze. For more information call the Utah County Storm Water Information line at 851-PURE.

*If you wouldn't drink it, don't dump it!*

City of Orem Public Works  
955 N 900 West  
Orem, UT 84057

Phone: 801-229-7500  
Fax: 801-229-7599

We're on the Web!  
[www.orem.org](http://www.orem.org)

## 851-PURE

The Utah County Stormwater Coalition and the Utah County Health department have combined forces to offer the Stormwater Information Line. If you call 851-PURE (851-7873), you can receive information about where you can recycle used oil, antifreeze and batteries. Try it out!

## Cemetery Policy

Interments or disinterments in the cemetery shall not be allowed on New Year's Day, Presidents' Day, Memorial Day weekend beginning Saturday morning through Memorial Day, Independence Day (July 4), Pioneer Day (July 24), Labor Day, Columbus Day, Thanksgiving Day and the following Friday, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, or any other City-observed holiday. In the event that a holiday falls on a Saturday, the preceding Friday shall be treated as the holiday. In the event that a holiday falls on a Sunday, the following Monday shall be treated as the holiday. No interments or disinterments shall be allowed in the cemetery on any Sunday.

## Dirty Construction Sites

(Continued from front)

**Sediment controls** are meant to keep the soil from leaving the site if it does become dislodged and transported by water. The most common sediment control devices are sediment basins, silt fence, rock check dams and straw bales.

Other considerations are given to **hazardous chemicals**. Specific areas are set aside for concrete washout. Dumpsters and portable toilets should be placed properly and maintained well. Paints and other chemicals should be stored indoors or have secondary containment provided.

The keys to all of these measures working successfully are correct installation and proper maintenance. For example, silt fence is supposed to be installed in a trench six inches deep so that the fabric does not wash out when pressure is applied to it. The dirt that builds up behind it is supposed to be removed when it has filled up to half the depth of the fence. All SWPPP measures are supposed to be inspected at least weekly and after each rain storm. They also must keep records of these inspections and the actions taken to fix any problems.

If a site is not properly maintained it is easy for a large amount of sediment to leave a site only to be caught in a storm drainage catch basin or sump. This can lead to flooding and can ruin a sump's ability to inject water into the subsurface. Cleaning and repairs of these facilities are time-consuming and expensive.

If you see a construction site that is not keeping dirt off city streets, you can call Development Services at 229-7107 to report it.



Chain link fence is often used to control access to construction sites



This slope has been hydro-seeded to encourage quick re-vegetation



Silt fence is designed to stop dirt from leaving construction sites



Caution should be taken when placing trash bins and portable toilets



Improper erosion prevention and sediment control can damage storm drains and potentially cause flooding