

## Clean water – we need it to survive

Rivers, streams, creeks, ponds, lakes, reservoirs — the metro area's waterways are some of our most precious resources. They provide drinking water, recreation, and wildlife habitat. But only if the water remains clean and unpolluted.

## Wind and water are the world's greatest earthmovers

Sediment — sand, soil, or dirt — is the most common pollutant from construction sites. Wind and water can erode any exposed soil, blowing or washing it from the work site.

Sediment decreases the capacity of the storm sewer system, increases flooding damage, and harms fish and other aquatic life. Sediment also carries pollutants (such as vehicle fluids, solvents, paints, asphalt, or cement) with it, which intensify the damage.

This brochure explains how proper management of construction sites can prevent water pollution.



As a construction site owner or operator, you are encouraged to:

- Train your employees and subcontractors.
- Inform them about their responsibilities regarding stormwater permit requirements and the site plan.
- Make these brochures available to everyone working on the site.

## Best Management Practices really do work

Best Management Practices include use of sediment traps, silt fences, and mulching. These measures, along with proper handling, storing, and

disposing of materials, prevent pollutants from entering the storm drains.

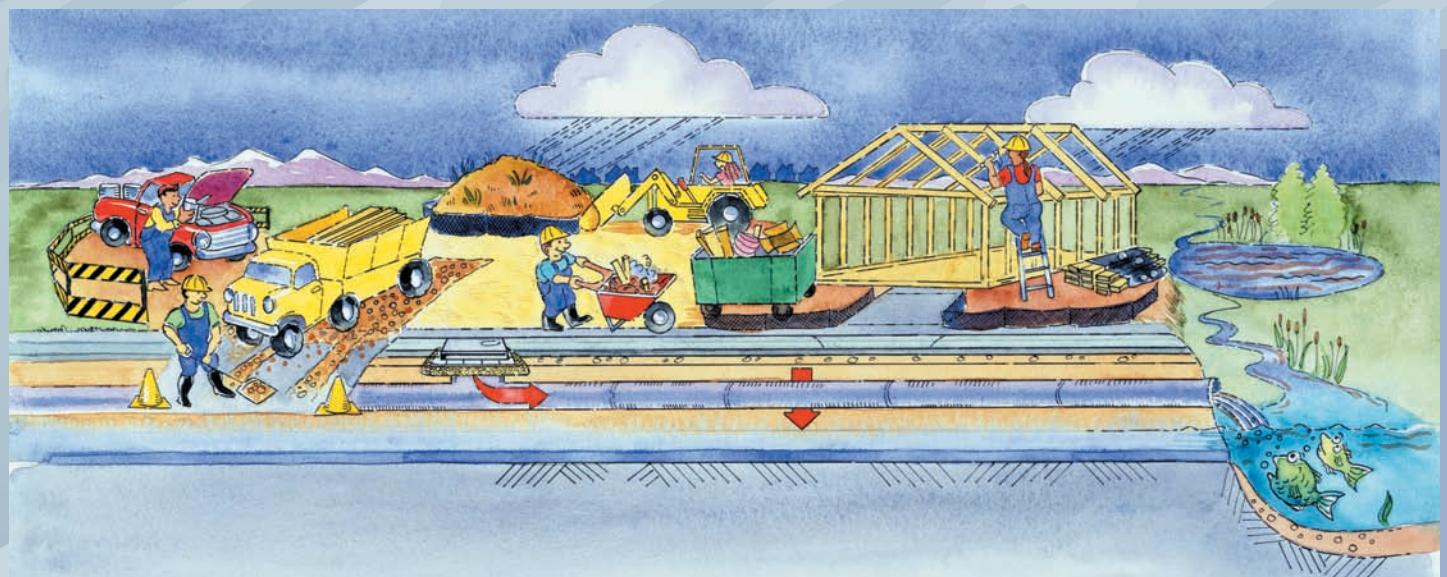
## Design for minimum impact

### Do not remove existing grass, shrubs, or trees

These plants bind soil and shield it from erosion by wind and water. Vegetated soil also improves the water quality of storm runoff. Use existing vegetation for buffer strips.

### Develop sites to fit existing topography

As much as possible, design the site to blend with existing topography. For example, grade the site following existing contours to preserve the natural drainage patterns.



## Phase your project

Limit the extent of earth-moving operations occurring at any one time by phasing a project. Exposed soil is easily carried to streams by stormwater. Phasing the project reduces the amount of exposed soil subject to erosion.

## Prevent erosion

### Plan before you start

Having an erosion control plan in place before construction begins prevents or minimizes most erosion and sedimentation problems.

### Control surface runoff

Use silt fences, hay bales, sediment basins, storm inlet protection, and mulching to control erosion. Use temporary dikes and ditches to divert water. Use as little water as possible for dust control.

### Keep mud off streets

Limit the number of access points to the site to prevent vehicles from tracking mud onto streets. Use a rock-lined tracking pad or wash rack to remove mud from vehicles before they exit the site. Clean streets around the site daily.

### Mulch and re-vegetate

When grading is completed, mulch and seed the site. Use fast-growing grasses suited to the dry Colorado climate.

