How Stormwater Controls Help Water Quality

Residential and commercial construction sites can help or harm our waterways. This pamphlet highlights a few good and bad examples.

Water Quality: Sediment is Ohio's #1 waterway pollutant. Too much can harm wildlife, increase algae growth and limit recreational value.

Flooding: Too much sediment can clog sewers, accumulate in streams and increase flooding.

Costs and Property Values: Cleaning up sediment can be costly to local governments and damage property values.

Questions or concerns?

Contact Columbus Stormwater Section: 614-645-6311

(for Columbus only)

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

BE A

Water Quality

Hero

A Guide to Construction Mud Runoff

The Control	The Wrong Way	The Right Way
Inlet protection—There are many different types of inlets and many options to protect them. *The wrong ways include an unsecured dandy bag, broken frame, and/or unprotected storm drain.* *Some controls only apply to sites over an acre in size.*		
Silt fence—This temporary sediment control device is used on construction sites to protect water quality from sediment (loose soil) in stormwater runoff. *The wrong ways include the fence being pushed over or dirt escaping from underneath.*		
Straw wattles, straw cover—Help intercept water from running into the street and down the sewer. *The wrong ways include unsecured wattles and/or lack of coverage.*		
Entrances—Mud tracking offsite is the most common problem. Minimize sediment track-out from vehicles by maintaining an exit pad made of crushed rock spread over geotextile fabric.		

Photos courtesy of City of Columbus and Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District