

Why control Erosion?



There are many reasons to control erosion in your yard...

Stopping erosion protects local creeks and rivers where stormwater is discharged. The soil from your yard can cover aquatic plants and upset the balance of the environment. This in turn can reduce fish populations and make your local creek appear muddy and unhealthy.



You have paid good money for your topsoil – it makes sense to keep it all in your yard. Many building contracts will include placement of topsoil so that the new owner can build gardens and grow the lawn. Topsoil is expensive and letting it all wash down the drain is a waste of money and it means you will have to get more topsoil before your lawn and gardens will grow.



It is against the law to allow soil to run off your property and into the stormwater system. When soil runs off private property, this is classed as water pollution. A Penalty Infringement Notice with a \$4,000 fine can be issued by your local Council if you fail to control erosion.



'When I first moved into my new home, our front yard was bare. One week after we moved in we had a storm and I could see that my topsoil was starting to wash away. So I got on the phone and ordered my turf to arrive as soon as possible. I got out after the rain and raked the topsoil back into place and got the turf delivered a few days later. My yard looks great and I kept all my topsoil.'

Testimonial... 'Bob from Bathurst'

Useful weblinks for further information:

[http://www.landcom.com.au/downloads/file/whatsnew/UrbanStormwater6pageFlyer\(PDF\).pdf](http://www.landcom.com.au/downloads/file/whatsnew/UrbanStormwater6pageFlyer(PDF).pdf)

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sustainbus/landscapeErosionSediment.htm>

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EROSION CONTROL for New Home Owners

Congratulations on your new home...

Once you have taken possession of your new home you are responsible for any impacts and pollution that may result from the building of your home or your activities. Dealing with erosion and sediment control is a common problem faced by many new home owners.

Erosion occurs when you have bare soil that then gets rained on, driven on a lot or even just kicked about by the kids. You can recognise erosion by the runnels in the soil or the dust coming off your yard.

This brochure will give you some practical cost effective tips for solving this problem.



EROSION CONTROL for New Home Owners

Turf & Lawn

The fastest and simplest solution to erosion is groundcover. For a new home this means lawn and garden. The faster you can get lawn established the less problems you will experience. Bare soil is 10 times more likely to erode than a yard with 50% lawn seed cover. It is really important to get good grass cover early. Turf is the fastest and easiest solution but growing grass from seed is still very effective.



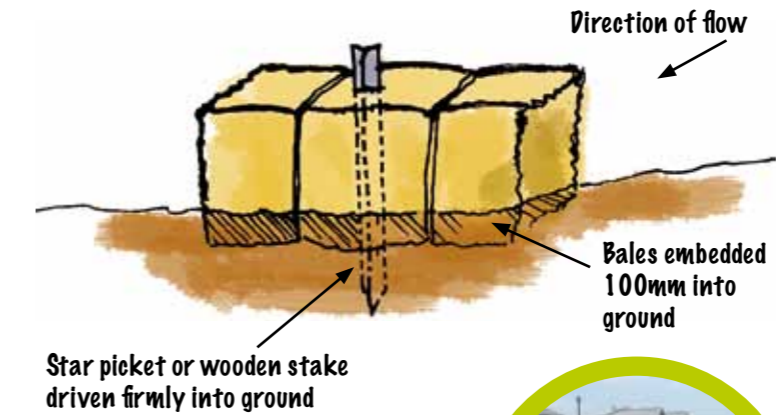
Turf Strips along gutter frontage

Another very effective and fast method of reducing erosion and keeping all your top soil on your land while your lawn is establishing is using a series of turf strips placed along the gutter. This will help prevent any material from washing into the stormwater system. This is a good and cheap short term option while landscaping or lawn establishment occurs.



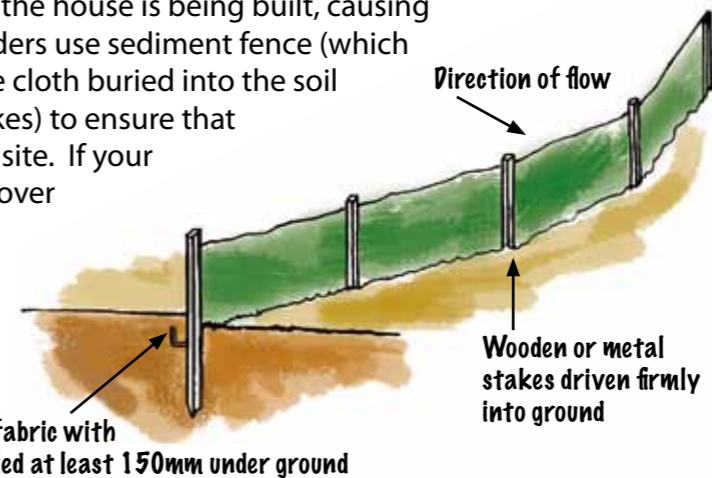
Straw Bales

Straw bales are another alternative for controlling erosion on steep slopes. By installing them as shown in the diagram below you can catch all the soil that may erode from your yard while you are waiting for turf or your lawn to establish. The benefit of straw bales is that they make great mulch for the garden once you have finished using them to control erosion in your yard.



Sediment Fence

Sediment fence is used by builders to control sediment that may be generated on-site during construction. Construction is a difficult time because soil is disturbed while the house is being built, causing erosion to occur. Builders use sediment fence (which looks a little like shade cloth buried into the soil and supported by stakes) to ensure that soil does not wash off site. If your new house is handed over with this in place do not remove it until your new lawn is established or your turf laid.



Control erosion in your yard...

