

Erosion & Sediment Top Ten List

1. Stream sedimentation is the greatest water pollution problem in Haywood County.
2. In western North Carolina, over 80% of the streams classified as "impaired" are due to sedimentation.
3. Sedimentation destroys wildlife habitat, smothers fish eggs, kills fish, and destroys their food supply.
4. Sediment can contain and carry harmful chemicals and pollutants that are used on the land.
5. Soil erosion removes the most valuable topsoil needed to grow plants and food.
6. It takes 500 years to develop one inch of topsoil; it can be lost in one storm.
7. Sedimentation fills lakes, ponds and streams, increasing power and utility company operating costs, and your utility rates.
8. It is much cheaper to control erosion than clean up sediment.
9. Land disturbing activities, such as road and building construction, can accelerate erosion and cause severe stream sedimentation.
10. The NC Sedimentation Pollution Control Act requires anyone involved in land disturbing activities to take preventative measures to reduce soil erosion and prevent sedimentation damage to waterways and property.



Lake Junaluska Assembly spends nearly \$50,000 each year to remove trash and sediment from their lake. This does not eliminate the problem, it only slows down the rate at which the lake is filling.

What's In It For Me?

Time and money. By installing the proper erosion control measures at the beginning of your project and maintaining them during the project, you will save money and a lot of aggravation. You can avoid the following costs and problems if you do it right the first time:

- Delays due to a Stop Work Order issued by a regulatory agency
- Damage repair on adjacent properties and waterways
- Missed deadlines and change orders for additional work to re-grade the site
- Lawsuits, civil penalties and administrative fines.

If you do it right, you will save money and enjoy the personal satisfaction of being a good land and water steward.

What Can I Do?

- Get technical advice before you begin construction; see agency addresses on the back page.
- Clear only the land area you must at any given time.
- Develop an effective erosion and sedimentation control plan and install controls that suite your site's topography, soils, drainage patterns, and natural vegetation.
- Install controls that protect your project's disturbed areas from off-site runoff.
- Slow down storm water runoff.
- Stabilize disturbed areas immediately after grading.
- Do not disturb soils during the winter months when a vegetative cover cannot be established.
- Maintain all erosion control structures.

Fish & other aquatic creatures are at risk from the impact of soil erosion.

