

# Sediment Poses Environmental Risks

In some ways, sediment creation is inevitable. When loosened soil particles are moved from their point of origin — as they often are on construction sites — and are washed away by rain or wash water, the process of erosion has begun.



Once it is in the runoff stream, sediment is carried into storm drains and directly into waterways where it is a pollutant.

Too much sediment in a waterbody can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to receive the sunlight they need to grow. Excess sediment also smothers aquatic habitat, clogs fish gills, and impedes navigation in our waterways, which can lead to expensive dredging.

## OKR10 requires

the final stabilization of construction sites, as summarized in this brochure. Site stabilization can play a significant role in reducing the impact of construction site operations on the stormwater system.

### Additional Resources

Visit the Green Country Stormwater Alliance web site listed below for more details about OKR10 guidelines, sediment and erosion control, and low-impact development practices.



**Green Country Stormwater Alliance**  
[www.stormwaterok.net](http://www.stormwaterok.net)

### Contact Information

For local information, contact your city or county stormwater coordinator.

For more information about stormwater protection, contact the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Water Quality Division at 405-702-8100 or visit the DEQ web site at [www.deq.state.ok.us/WQDnew/stormwater/index.html](http://www.deq.state.ok.us/WQDnew/stormwater/index.html)

For stormwater related complaints, call the DEQ statewide hotline at 1-800-522-0206. This number is answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Citizens may fill out an online complaint form at the DEQ web site at [www.deq.state.ok.us/ECLsnew/Complaints/onlncompl.htm](http://www.deq.state.ok.us/ECLsnew/Complaints/onlncompl.htm) and submit it electronically to the DEQ. The site also provides contact links to DEQ.



Partially Funded by  
Sec. 319(h) Grant

Brochure Rev.: 01-10-07



## Final Stabilization

### at Construction Sites *OKR10 Requirements*



# OKR10 Requirements on Final Site Stabilization



## Site Stabilization

The *OKR10 General Permit* requires that permittees provide a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWP3) for the purpose, among other things, of providing a description of the measures that will be employed at the site to control pollutants in the stormwater discharge.

The SWP3 must describe both the interim and permanent (final) site stabilization measures. Permanent measures are those that occur when activity at the site has ceased.

## Stabilization Practices

According to the State of Oklahoma, the following are acceptable site stabilization practices:

- Establishment of temporary vegetation
- Establishment of permanent vegetation
- Use of geotextiles (permanent fabrics designed for use with soils to drain, reinforce or protect a site)
- Vegetative buffer strips (bioretention areas)
- Mulching
- Sod stabilization
- Protection of trees
- Preservation of mature vegetation.



The State recommends avoiding the use of impervious surfaces for stabilization. Permeable pavement systems are shown to be effective in dramatically reducing surface runoff volume.

## The 70 Percent Rule

Final site stabilization involves the establishment of a vegetative cover on all site areas that are unpaved or that are not covered by permanent structures. The vegetative cover must be perennial (growing back year after year) and must cover at least 70 percent of the affected area. The coverage must be evenly distributed, without large bare areas showing anywhere.

A common concept of the 70 Percent Rule is the “hula-hoop” test. If a hula-hoop is tossed anywhere onto the affected area, the area within the hoop must be at least 70 percent covered by vegetation.



## When to Stabilize

As a general rule, final site stabilization must take place as soon as possible, but no later than 14 days after construction activity ceases at the site. Some exceptions to this rule are noted below:

- If stabilization is prevented by adverse weather conditions (snow, ice, heavy rains or drought)
- If construction activity at the site is ceased only temporarily and the earth-disturbing activities there will resume within 21 days
- If the site is located in an arid climate (average annual rainfall of 0 to 10 inches), a semiarid climate (average annual rainfall of 10 to 20 inches), and an area experiencing a drought.

## Discharge Rules

Once a site has undergone final stabilization, no stormwater discharges are authorized from the site under the *OKR10 General Permit*. Permittees who wish to terminate their coverage under an *OKR10 General Permit* must first complete final stabilization on all areas of the site for which the permittee is responsible.

For the purposes of the permit certificate, the “elimination of storm water discharges” means that all of the disturbed soils at the construction activity site where the permittee had control have been finally stabilized. In addition, all temporary measures have been removed or will be removed as appropriate to ensure that final stabilization is maintained.

## Documentation Requirements

During construction activity, a copy of the SWP3 must be kept at the construction site. Following final stabilization, a qualified inspection will be conducted at the site at least monthly. A copy of the inspection report should be kept with the SWP3 and held on file for at least three years from the date of final stabilization or until Notice of Termination is submitted.

No part of this brochure may be construed to provide complete guidance on the *OKR10 General Permit* for storm water discharges from construction activities within the State of Oklahoma. This brochure is for general information purposes only.