

People who can answer questions and assist you in your efforts to protect water quality in your community

If you have questions, concerns, or would like more information about soil erosion and sedimentation control, call or write:

Wayne County Department of Environment
Land Resource Management Division
Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control
3600 Commerce Court, Building E
Wayne, Michigan 48184
(313) 326-3936

U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service
7203 Jackson Road
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103-9506
(313) 761-6722

Or contact your local City or Township Building or Engineering Department.

To get more information on a statewide level, call or write:

Department of Environmental Quality
Water Bureau
Constitutional Hall
525 W. Allegan
Lansing, MI 48909
517-335-3178

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3600 Commerce Court, Building E
Wayne, MI 48184

734.326.3936
FAX: 734.326.4421

Soil Erosion, Sediment Pollution, and Your New Home



***A Message from the
Wayne County
Department of
Environment***



"Protecting and Restoring Our Environment"

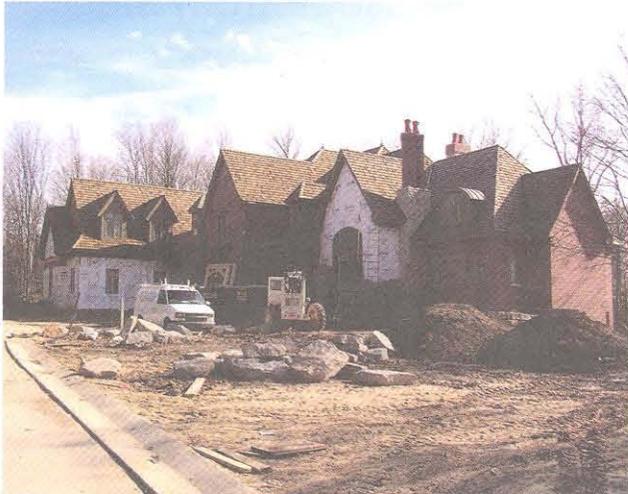
Congratulations on your New Home!

As a new home owner, landscaping your yard is probably somewhere on your growing list of "Things To Do".

Unfortunately, due to such things as budget constraints, uncooperative weather, and over-booked landscapers, it may be weeks, or even months before your lot is finally covered with that beautiful blanket of freshly cut sod.

It is during this critical time, when your future lawn is still just a patch of mud, that we are asking you and your neighbors to help us protect the water quality of the streams and wetlands in your community and, perhaps, even the pond in your own backyard!

Please take a moment to read this brochure and see how you can do your part.



What is Soil Erosion?

Soil Erosion is the movement of soil across the land by exposure to wind or rain, or both. This process is greatly accelerated by human activities that remove vegetation from the land, such as new home construction.

The end result of this uncontrolled soil erosion is polluted creeks and streams. Each time it rains, soil is washed off every non-landscaped lot in your subdivision. Sediment runs down the curb and directly into the storm sewer drain. This muddy runoff water also washes into the rear yard storm sewers found in some backyards.

Why Be Concerned?

- Sediment pollution is the number one pollutant to the creeks and streams of the watershed!
- Sediment clogs the sewer pipes, and the streets and ponds within your subdivision become muddy. It is unsightly and may require costly cleanup.
- Sediment washed downstream will fill wetlands and clogs streams with mud. This causes excessive streambank erosion and destroys essential wetland habitat, making it difficult for plants and animals living in these areas to survive.
- Water loaded with silt and sediment can suffocate fish and kill aquatic insects that fish rely upon for food.
- Sediment transports excessive amounts of phosphorus to our lakes and ponds causing algae blooms.

How Can You Help?

Two measures that you can take to reduce the amount of soil washing off your lot are:

1. Install and/or maintain a **silt fence barrier around the front and back of your lot.** (Silt fence is the black, 2 foot high, woven plastic fence that you may have seen put up around your subdivision). Many communities now require that the builder install a silt fence as part of the final inspection prior to issuing a certificate of occupancy.
 - When the **bottom of the silt fence is properly trenched 8 inches into the ground**, it will slow down the muddy runoff water and filter out soil particles as the water passes through the fabric fence material.
2. Use flexible plastic pipe to temporarily redirect water flowing out of gutter downspouts and sump pumps so that it does not wash across the bare soil on your lot. If this is not practical, at least try to slow the water down as much as possible as it flows across the ground. This will minimize **gully erosion** which cannot be easily controlled with silt fence.
 - Once your lot is sodded, remove the silt fence and flexible pipe and **recycle it by sharing it with a neighbor.** If you belong to a Homeowners Association, distribute a list of homeowners within your subdivision who might have these

