



Erosion & Sediment Control Standards

**FOR EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL AND DRAINAGE
CHAPTER 52 OF THE MINNEAPOLIS CODE OF ORDINANCES**

MINNEAPOLIS HEALTH DEPARTMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

January 2025

These standards are immediately applicable and will be used to enforce on public and private contractors doing work captured in Chapter 52 Erosion and Sediment Control and Drainage and the State of Minnesota issued MS4 permit.

Any person who violates any provision of this chapter shall be guilty of an ordinance violation and subject to the punishment and penalties of Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 of this Code. Chapters 1 and 2 of the Municipal Code of Ordinances provides an administrative enforcement and hearing process for the resolution of certain violations of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances.

Document purpose and authority

Purpose

The purpose of the erosion and sediment control (ESC) Standards is to provide clarification to City staff, contractors, and the public on the ESC standards the City of Minneapolis uses to enforce Chapter 52 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances.

Ordinance Authority

[Chapter 52 – Erosion and Sediment Control and Drainage, Minneapolis Code of Ordinances](#)

Erosion and sediment control standards

Initial inspection

Private construction sites that pull an erosion permit with the City of Minneapolis must obtain written inspector approval of Erosion and sediment control BMPs **prior** to soil disturbance work.

Public right of way

- At the end of each workday, the public right of way must be completely clear of sediment. This may be achieved by sweeping, scraping, or other removal methods. If materials can't be cleared, they must be protected in a manner to prevent wind, water, and mechanical erosion (i.e., high winds, rain events, vehicle disturbance).
- Temporary best management practices (BMPs) must be maintained to prevent sediment tracking and/or discharge from the site into the public right of way. (Some may need more frequent maintenance.)

Entrance/exit stabilization

All construction entrances and exits must be stabilized with BMPs to effectively minimize sediment track-out from vehicle disturbance. Stabilization BMPs should be renewed or maintained **before** they are rendered ineffective.

Site perimeter

- The exposed soil perimeter of a site must have 100% coverage of erosion and sediment control BMPs where there is potential for sediment to leave the site. These BMPs must effectively prevent sediment from leaving the site. This includes the exposed soil perimeter of the property, boulevards, and other areas.
- Perimeter control BMPs that are at ½ capacity must be maintained by removing built up sediment.

Stormwater inlets/storm drains

- Storm drains that are at risk of receiving soil from site construction activity (e.g., downhill) must be protected. All protection devices must be maintained so sediment can be trapped effectively without causing flood risk.
- Storm drain inlet protection devices that are at ½ capacity must be emptied and any barriers around inlets must not have sediment at ½ their height.

Vegetation establishment/re-establishment

Perennial vegetation, not including weeds, must provide at least 70% coverage of boulevards, lots, and any other disturbed soil areas associated with the site or affected by site work. Seed/turf mixes should be appropriate for their location and environmental conditions.

Airborne sediment/dust

Dust from cutting, sawing, sweeping, or other disturbance activities must be prevented by wet cutting, watering, containment, and/or other techniques.

Stockpiles

- All stockpiles must be protected at the end of each workday. Protection practices should correlate with size, slope, and erosion risk of the stockpile. Perimeter controls, such as silt fence or biologs, must be placed around the base of the stockpile, with enough space between the edge of stockpile and the protective device to mitigate overflow.
- Stockpiled soils remaining on site longer than 14 days should be mulched, covered, or seeded to reduce erosion and sediment pollution due to wind and rain. Stockpiles must also be covered prior to forecasted rain events.
- Silt fences or other perimeter controls should also be placed around the stockpile, but not directly adjacent to the base of the stockpile, providing adequate space so that soil that erodes doesn't migrate over the BMP, rendering it ineffective.

Water filtration/dewatering

All discharge from dewatering must be filtered before discharged. The filtered discharge outlet must be placed in a way that allows for infiltration of water on a vegetated area. All temporary discharges require a permit from the City of Minneapolis.

Winter requirements

- All winter shutdown activities should be performed before frozen conditions are present. This includes final vegetation establishment, soil stabilization, temporary BMP installment, etc.
- Any exposed soil that can't be vegetated before frozen conditions must be stabilized using measures to withstand snowmelt conditions. Dormant sites should be inspected during melt conditions. Sites should be vegetated as soon as practicable once spring thaw occurs.

ESC plan sites

- All sites with soil disturbance amounts greater than 5,000 square feet are required to have an approved ESC plan with the City of Minneapolis.
- The ESC plan must be in compliance with all applicable provisions under Chapter 52.100 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances

SWPPP sites

- All sites with soil disturbance amounts equal to or greater than one acre are required to have a SWPPP permit
- Construction sites with an approved SWPPP plan are subject to the MN SWPPP regulations in addition to the standards outlined in this document.
- SWPPP plans and SWPPP weekly/rainfall inspection logs must be available **on site** in a physical or digital format for City inspectors to view.

Final site conditions

- All BMPs must be removed.
- All sediment in the Public Right of Way, including the sidewalk, alley, and street, should be removed completely.
- Exposed soils must have established perennial vegetation with at least 70% coverage, not including weeds.

Resources

The City of Minneapolis adopts and approves of MNDOT and MPCA BMP guidance documents, and standards. Below is a list of resources for contractors and ESC supervisors to reference to aide with compliance of the City of Minneapolis' ESC standards.

- General Guidance:
 - o [Minnesota Stormwater Manual](#)
 - o [MN Construction Stormwater permit](#)
 - o [Minneapolis Code of Ordinances Ch. 52: Erosion and Sediment Control and Drainage](#)
- BMP Specs, Details, and Guidance:
 - o [MNDOT Standards Specifications for Construction](#)
 - o [MNDOT Sediment Control BMP Guides](#)
 - o [Erosion Control Materials Guidance Document](#)
- Winter & Spring Guidance:
 - o [MNDOT Winter Construction Practices page](#)
 - o [MNDOT Spring Startup PDF](#)
- Vegetation:
 - o [MNDOT Vegetation Manual](#)