KEEPING OUR STORMWATER CLEAN

Information Designed To Help You Control Sediment And Litter From Your Building Site And Comply With Council And State Regulations

A builder's guide

EPA VICTORIA

State Government Victoria

Melbourne Water

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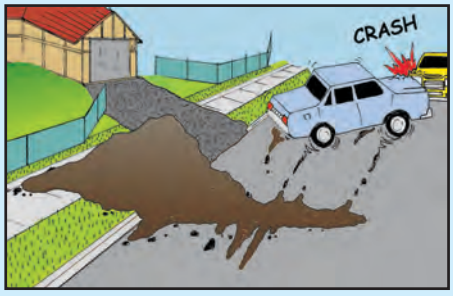
Protecting our Environment



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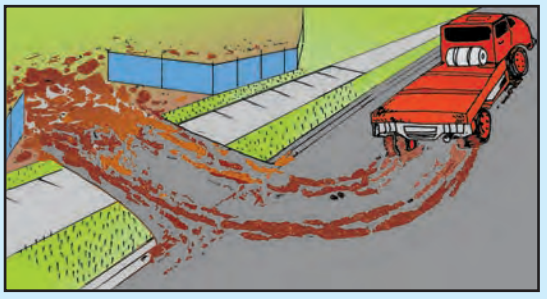

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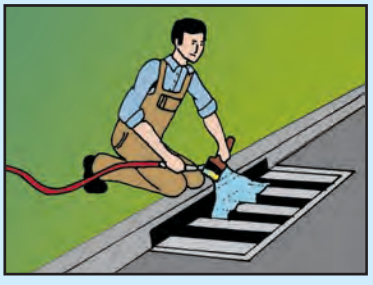

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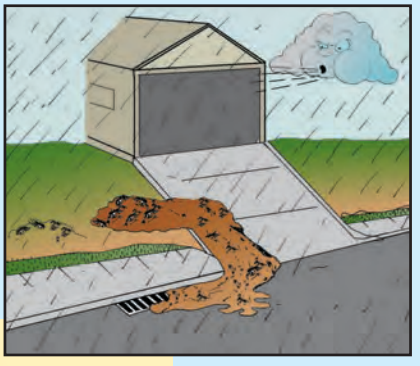

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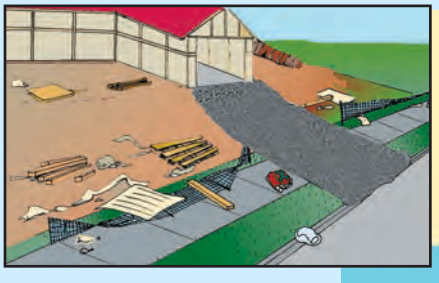
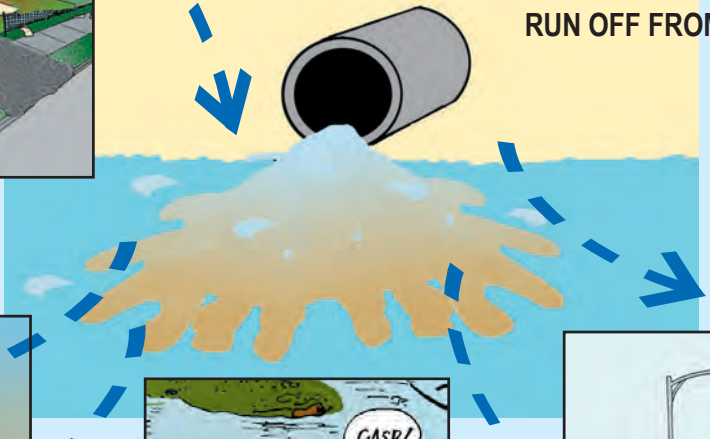
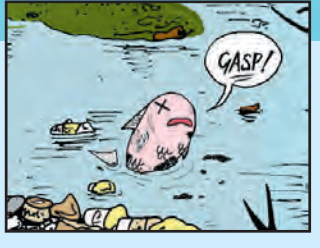


LITTER



polluted beach
& waterways



fresh water and sea life
habitats destroyed

blocked drains &
silted waterways

WHY DO I NEED TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT?

(1) It's the law!

Sediment from building sites can pollute stormwater. There are State and local council laws which make this an offence.

The developer or person managing the building site has the responsibility of making sure that the stormwater is not polluted.

(2) To enjoy using our environment - now and in the future

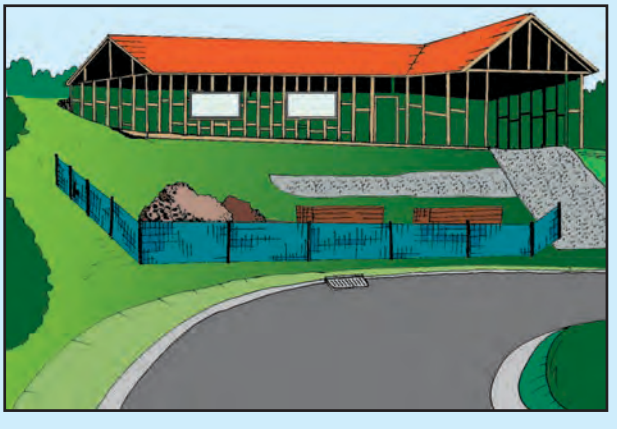
Pollution in our stormwater can lead to short and long term damage to our environment.

(3) To benefit builders

The site looks good (which is good for attracting new customers) **and you'll be helping to protect our environment**.

The site has fewer hazards. A well organised site has less loose material lying around causing a hazard. This reduces health and safety issues on a building site.

Downtime is reduced. A well managed and organised site is more efficient. This saves time and money.



THE NEW SITE

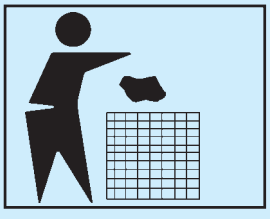
This booklet will take you through six site rules and show you how to control sediment, waste and litter on your worksite.

HOW CAN I PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT?

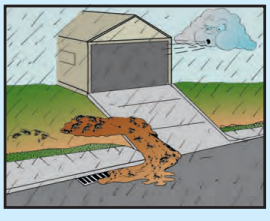
6 SITE RULES TO KEEP STORMWATER CLEAN

SITE RULE 1 Plan before you start work on site

SITE RULE 2 Keep mud off road and on site



SITE RULE 3 Keep litter contained on site



SITE RULE 4 Stop erosion on site

SITE RULE 5 Contain stockpiles and sediments on or off site

SITE RULE 6 Clean and wash up on site

SITE RULE 1
Plan before you start work on site

Questions to ask BEFORE you start

Planning, BEFORE you start a job, will make a big difference to how well you manage your site.

Where is the lowest point on the site?
Water always runs to the lowest point. It is important to know where this point is when planning your site. It will affect where you put your crossover, stockpile materials and so on.

Where will I put the crossover?
Try to put the crossover as far away from the lowest point as possible. As water runs to the lowest point it is more likely to be wet and muddy. [See Page 9.]

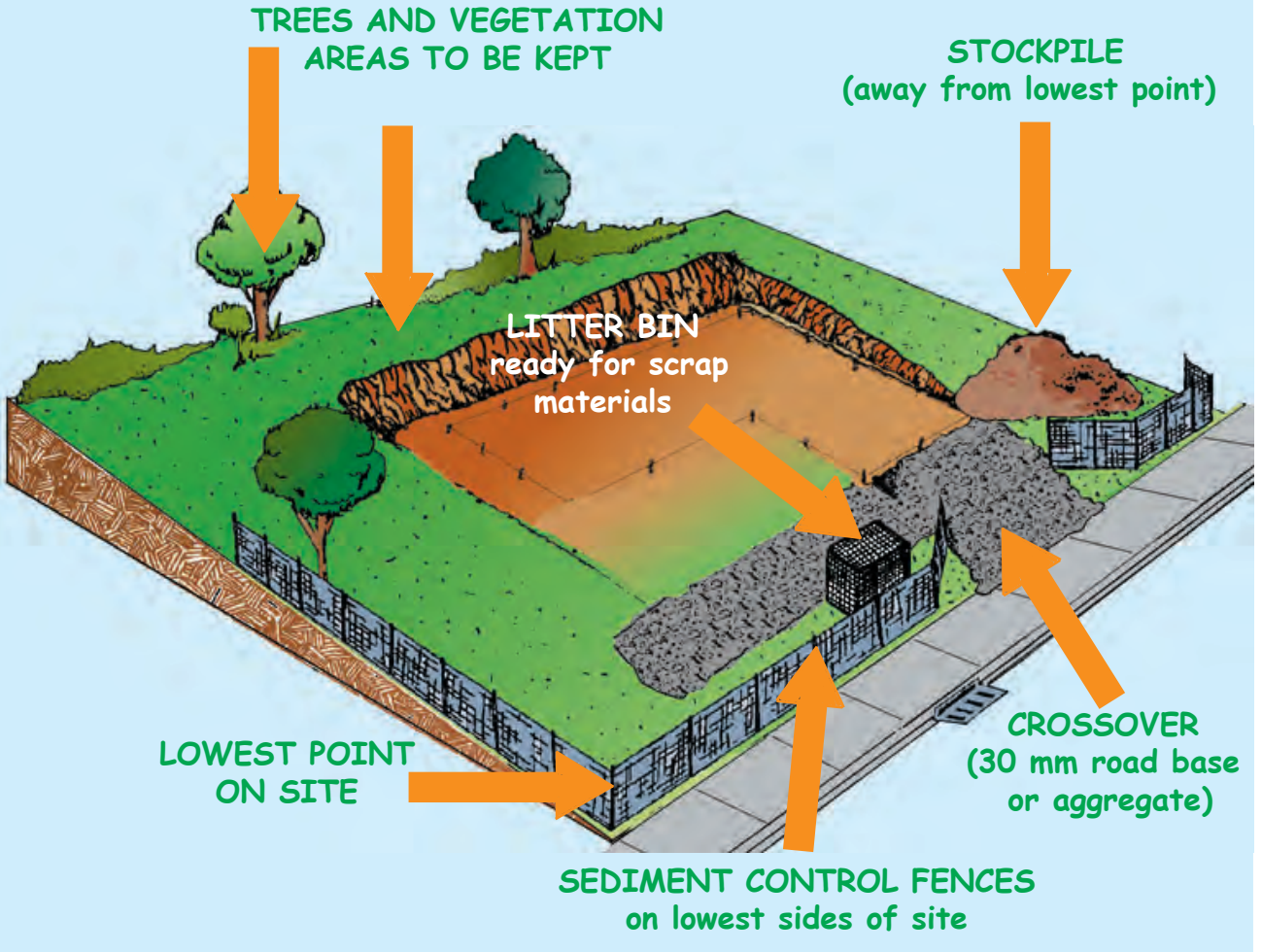
Where will I keep my stockpile?
Stockpiles are best kept on site, as far away from the lowest point as practical. [See Page 7]

Where will I build my sediment control fence?
Sediment control fences should be built on the lowest side/s of a site. A flat site may not need sediment control fences. [See Page 7.]

Which trees and vegetation will I keep on site?
Rope or fence off the areas you are going to keep. Keeping vegetation such as grassed areas will help to prevent damage to the surface of the site later on. [See Page 16]

Why fence my site?
Site fencing provides some protection against theft, helps to keep building activities to the site, stops movement of litter, and helps to keep a site safe by stopping members of the public wandering on site. [See Page11]

SITE READY TO START JOB



Useful Contacts

Temporary Fencing:

Australian Temporary Fencing	13 -1716	
Victorian Temporary Fencing	(03) 9484 4000	

Sediment Control Fencing:

Geofabrics Australasia	(03) 8586 9111	www.geofabrics.com.au
Southern Geosynthetics Supplies	0419 478 238	

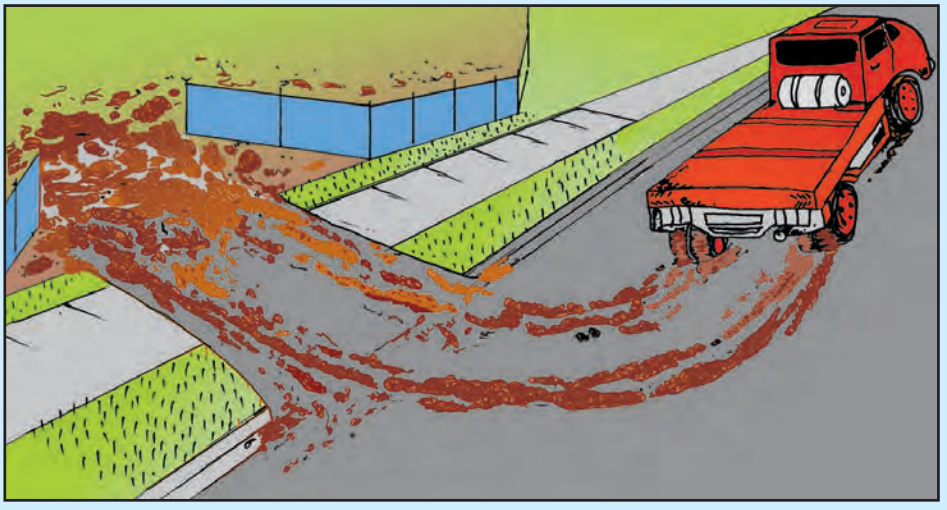
[See also Geosynthetic Products, in the Yellow Pages]

SITE RULE 2
Keep mud off road and on site

Why is mud a problem?

Two things happen when vehicles go on and off the site:

1. The surface area of the site is damaged making it dangerous.
2. Mud is carried back onto the roads and footpaths.



METHODS TO CONTROL MUD

The following simple methods will help you to protect the surface of your site and help stop vehicles from dropping mud on the road from their wheels. The best way to do this is to put crushed rock on the crossover or access point of your building site.

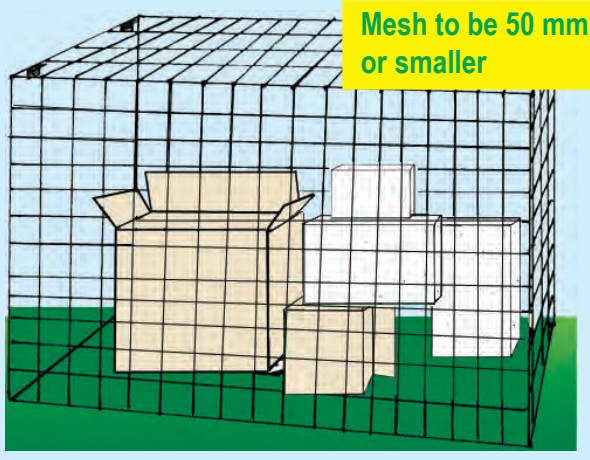
Putting crushed rock on the access point of your site is a good way to prevent damage and provide a dry access point for vehicles.

Make sure gravel does not collect in the gutter or on the footpath.

A gravel access point also stops mud getting on tyres and being taken onto the road.

METHODS TO CONTROL LITTER

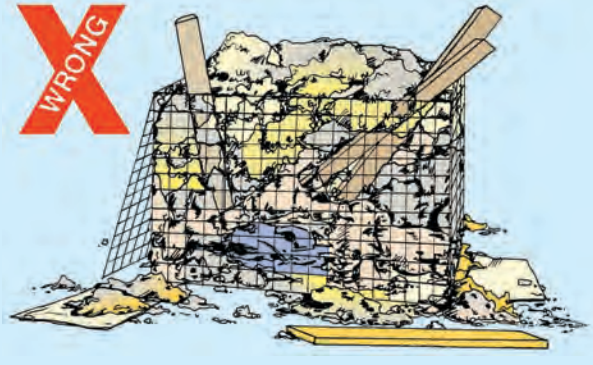
The following simple methods will help you to stop litter leaving your site or being a hazard on site.



Control Method 1: Litter bins

A mesh bin is suitable for larger items like cardboard boxes, plastic wrapping and polystyrene.

A domestic bin is okay for smaller rubbish like paper, food wrapping and drink containers that may be blown off site.



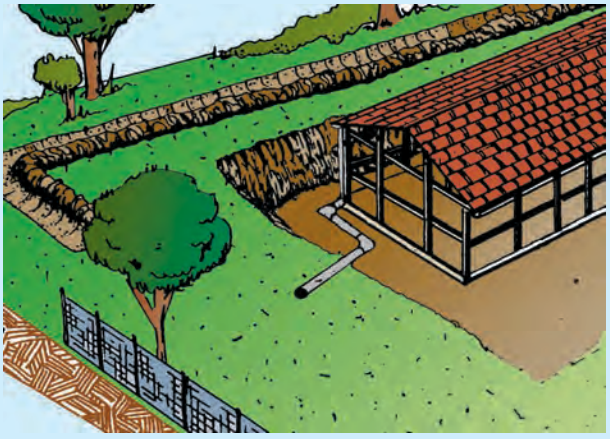
Empty the litter bin regularly.
Don't allow overflow.
Where possible, collect the materials from the litter bin for recycling and /or keep different materials in separate bins.

Useful Contacts

Waste Minimisation / Recycling:

EcoRecycle Victoria 1800 35 32 33

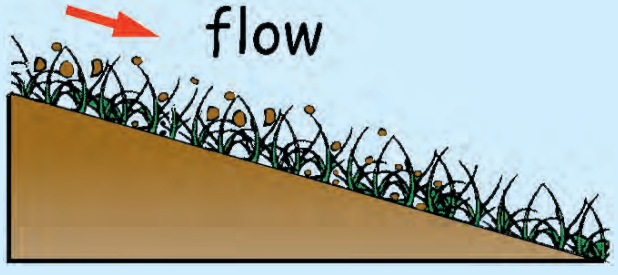
Control Method 3: Pipe roof water onto a grassed area.



If you cannot connect to the stormwater, pipe the water away from the building onto a vegetated area or where there is good ground cover.

This lets water seep into the ground with less damage to the surface of the soil.

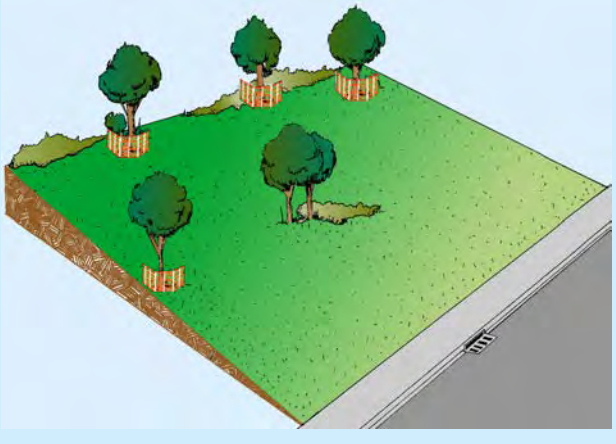
Control Method 4: Keep areas of vegetation.



grassed areas trap soil particles

Vegetation helps protect the soil from the effects of rain and surface water by:

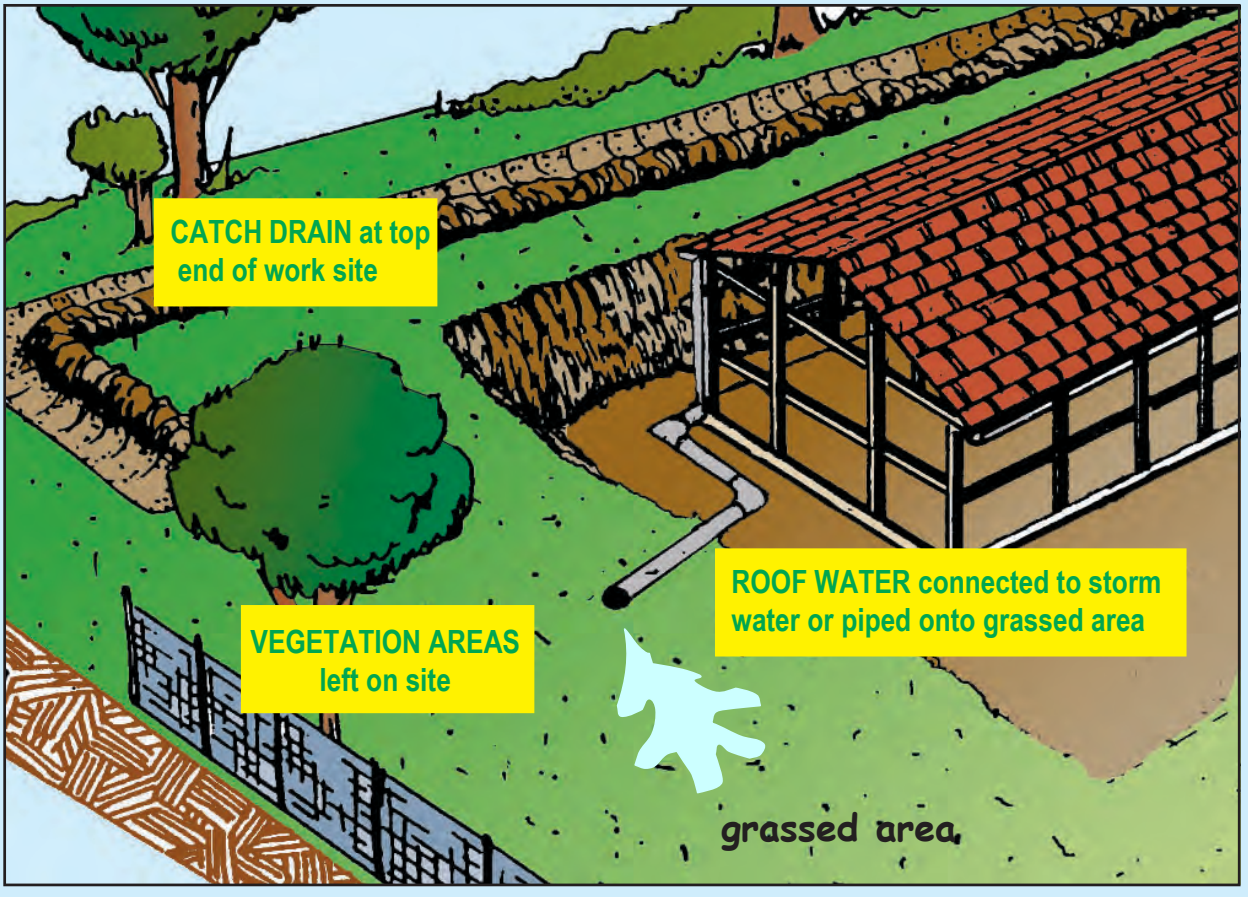
- acting as a cushion. Rain drops are unable to move soil particles when they hit the surface.
- slowing the flow of water across the ground. Fast water is able to carry more soil particles off site.
- roots hold the soil together so it cannot be moved.
- grassed areas acting as a filter trapping soil particles.



Decide what areas of vegetation you are going to keep on site. Mark trees, shrubs and grassed areas that you are keeping .

Protect areas close to the boundary, drains and gutters, and where surface water flows may carry sediment off site.

With careful planning the problem of erosion can be reduced



Useful Contact

TEMPORARY FLEXIBLE DOWNPIPE:

- Trowelcraft (03) 9786-3711

Approximate Cost: $127 per box/kit (enough for approximately 3 single storey houses)