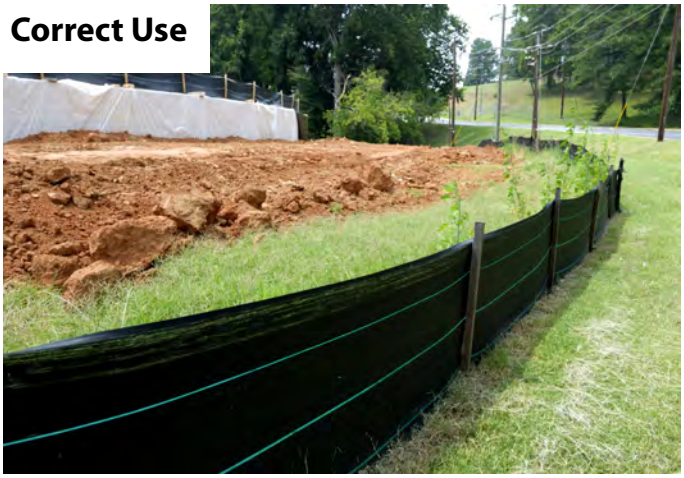
Silt Fencing

Block sediment before it reaches our rivers and streams

Save time and resources while protecting Wisconsin's waterways

Silt fences are a popular sediment control practice, but are also commonly misused. Properly installed and maintained silt fences will **prevent complaints**, **avoid non-compliance fees** and **keep sediment out of local waterways**. Fencing is best used in conjunction with other upslope erosion control and when it is maintained properly.

Correct Use



Silt fencing can be effective in preventing areas with disturbed soil from washing into nearby land and waters.

Wrong Use

A silt fence is only effective if there is no other way for sediment to get through.

Photos from University of Wisconsin Extension

When to Use

Silt fencing is a good choice when you need erosion control for less than a year. Fencing can be used in areas with less than 50% slope and in locations where the fence can be properly-staked and entrenched. Fencing should be properly installed before you start disturbing areas above.

When NOT to Use

Silt fencing should NEVER be used in channels or places with concentrated water flow, i.e. small streams coming off a property. Silt fencing is not worth using as a tool to just mark off site boundaries.

Site plans should include the following:

- locations of all fences and the drainage area flowing to it
- material specifications
- standard drawings and installation details
- stabilizing plan for the ground after fence is removed
- on-site person responsible and maintenance schedule

Silt Fencing: Installation and Maintenance

Installation

• When installing on a slope, fences should not be placed across the direction of water flow. Fences should run along the contour, not perpendicular to it.

• Fences should reach **14 to 24 inches** above the ground and must have a support cord.

• When joining two segments, each end of the fabric must be fastened to a post and the posts must be wrapped around each other.

• Fencing must be anchored by spreading **8 inches** of woven or non-woven fabric in a **6 inch** deep trench along the upslope side of the fence. The trench is then filled and compacted to secure the fencing material into the ground.

Refer to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Technical Standard 1056 for geotextile specifications.*

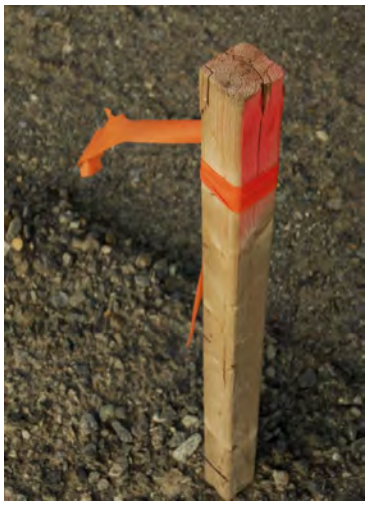
Maintenance

• Inspect at least weekly and before expected rain.

• Inspect within **24 hours** of precipitation over **0.5 inches** of rain.

• Sediment behind the fence should be disposed of once it reaches half the height of the fence.

Posting



Fencing posts should be spaced **3 feet** apart when using non-woven material and **8 feet** for woven material. A minimum **20 inches** of post should be in the ground.

Wood support option

• Posts should be at least **3 feet long** for **24 inch** fabric and **4 feet long** for **36 inch** fabric. Posts should support the full height of the fence.

• Wooden posts can be made of air- or kiln-dried hickory or oak.

• Fencing should be stapled with **½ inch** staples to the upslope side of the fence.

Steel support option

• Post should be at least **5 feet long** to support the full hight of the fencing.

• Steel strength must be greater that **1.33 pounds per foot**

• Silt fence is attached onto steel fasteners using **50 pound plastic ties or wire**. Point the ends of ties or wire away from the fence.

• Steel supports are a good option if the ground is hard or frozen

*For the complete Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Stormwater Management and Technical Standards, including 1056, go to **http://dnr.wi.gov/runoff/stormwater/techstds.htm**

Visit **www.renewtherock.com** for more information, resources and tips.

Renew the Rock

Making Stormwater Cleaner and Waterways Healthier Across South Central Wisconsin

Information provided by the Rock River Stormwater Group.

Renew The Rock is a public campaign to encourage homeowners, businesses and communities to protect our region's waterways.