

Frequently Asked Questions about the Dubuque County's Erosion Control and Stormwater Management Ordinance

1. What Type(s) of Permit(s) Do I need?

You may need one or more of the following types of permits, depending on the specifics of your project:

- Erosion Control (Minor)
- Erosion Control (Major)
- Stormwater Control

2. What Kind of Activities Require a Permit?

A **Minor Erosion Control Permit** is required for *ANY* of the following:

- Land disturbance of 4,000 square feet or more or of 1-acre or more for agricultural development (non-farming practices).
- Land disturbance on a slope more than 6%.
- Building of a new dwelling or single family home.
- Land disturbance involving excavation and/or filling more than 200 cubic yards of material.
- Land disturbance of more than 100 lineal feet of road ditch, grass waterway, or other area where surface drainage flows in open channels.
- New public or private roads or access drives longer than 150 feet.
- Development that requires a land division.
- Land disturbance less than 2,000 square feet that has a high risk of soil erosion or water pollution, as determined by local ordinance administration.
- Land disturbance of any size within any of the following areas:
 - Within the watershed of a cold water stream.
 - Within 300 feet of the *ordinary high-water mark* of any navigable water or 1000 feet of a lake or pond.
 - Within the 100 year *floodplain*.

Within 75 feet of a shoreland wetland or inland wetland

A **Major Erosion Control Permit** is required for *ANY* of the following:

- For any site with 2 acres or more of disturbed area.
- Any development that is considered a subdivision.

*This Permit process is a more in-depth land disturbing assessment. Please see the Dubuque County Erosion Control and Stormwater Management Manual for complete details.

A **Stormwater Management Permit** is Required for *ANY* of the following:

- Required for new development and redevelopment site with 1-acre or more of land disturbing area.
- Development requiring a subdivision plat.
- Commercial or industrial development that requires a certified survey map.
- Any new development or redevelopment, regardless of size, with a Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code that falls under the NPDES Industrial Stormwater Permit program or a *hotspot land use*.

3. What Type of Fee's/Costs are involved?

- The Fee for Minor ESC Permits is \$100.00.
- For any site with **2 acres or more of disturbed area**, the fee is \$285 plus \$100 per acre for every acre or portion of an acre over two acres.
- Any development that is considered a subdivision, or requires a plat would be charged the fee's stated above.
- Fees may be modified time to time by the County Board of Supervisors.

4. What is required to Control Erosion/Sediment on my Disturbed Area?

Effective erosion control, sediment and stormwater management depends on proper planning, design, timely installation and continued maintenance of erosion control and stormwater management practices.

Best Management Practices are intended to stop or control erosion, sediment, or other pollutants from leaving a disturbed site. Some of the general erosion control practices that are often used to control erosion/sediment would be:

- Silt Fence
- Silt Socks (Filter Socks)
- Wattle
- Filter Berm
- Sediment Trap or Basin
- Check Dam(s)
- Grass Channel
- Compost Blanket

For a complete list – Please see Appendix A of the Dubuque County Stormwater Management Manual
<http://www.dubuquecounty.org/Zoning/Forms/tabid/156/Default.aspx>

5. What is Required from a Stormwater Management Permit?

- Post-development runoff shall be infiltrated such that a rainfall depth of 1.25 inches is recharged to the ground (*Recharge Volume, Rev*). Infiltration shall be limited to the volume infiltrated in 24 hours.
 - Exclusion: If the site is unsuitable for infiltration as determined by the County Engineer, the *applicant* may submit engineering evidence such as clay soil or karst that may suggest that the site **may require alternative infiltration practices such as a treatment train.**

6. What are some of the more common ways to infiltrate stormwater to the ground?

- Infiltrative practices are becoming much more understood and common. The most common types of Best Management Practices that would accomplish this would be:
- Rain Gardens
- Bioretention Systems
- Soil Quality Restoration
- Native Landscaping
- Grass Swales

For a complete list – Please see Appendix B of the Dubuque County Stormwater Management Manual

Checklist for Minor Erosion Control Permit

- Estimate of the total area of the project site and the total disturbed area
- Implementation of the erosion control measures are in place
- Maintenance procedures required to keep controls functioning in an effective manner
- Temporary and/or permanent stabilization control are in place
- Any non-stormwater related discharges from the site are accounted for
- Method to limit off-site tracking of sediment by vehicles

For more information please contact:

Bret Wilkinson, Dubuque County Engineer – 563-557-7283
Anna O’Shea, Dubuque County Zoning – 563-589-7827

OR

Eric Schmechel, Dubuque Soil & Water Conservation District, Watershed Coordinator – 563-876-3418 Ext.3