About the Inspection and Enforcement Branch

DDOE’s Inspection and Enforcement Branch (IEB) of the Watershed Protection Division (WPD):

- Protects water quality and aquatic resources in the District of Columbia and its watersheds.

- Inspects land disturbance at construction sites for compliance with District Regulations for erosion and sediment control (ESC).

- Inspects construction sites for compliance with District Regulations for stormwater management (SWM) facilities, also called Best Management Practices (BMP).

- Reviews and approves As-Built plans for compliance with District SWM regulations.

- Investigates water drainage and soil erosion complaints.

- Performs maintenance and operation inspections of storm water BMP.

Land disturbing activities are regulated by law. The IEB performs the duties listed above as described by Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the District of Columbia Municipal Code of Regulations.

Questions or Concerns?
Contact the Chief of the Inspections and Enforcement Branch of the WPD at 202 535-2243

Contact Information & Important Resources

Contact the DDOE Inspection and Enforcement Branch at (202) 535-2977 or ieb.scheduling@dc.gov to:

- Schedule a pre-construction meeting, request an inspection for erosion and sediment control, storm water management construction or maintenance.

- Submit a complaint about drainage or the conditions of a construction site.

- Purchase a copy of the Standards and Specifications for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control or the District of Columbia Department of the Environment Stormwater Management Guide Book.

- To report water pollution or discharges to streams, ditches or catch basins contact the DDOE Water Quality Division at (202) 535-2600.

- To report sewer emergencies, or for general inquires contact DC Water at (202) 787-2000 and (202) 612-3400 or email: custserv@dcwater.com.

District Department of the Environment
1200 First Street, NE 5th Floor
Washington, DC 20002
202-535-2600 | ddoe.dc.gov
Common Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) Best Management Practices (BMP) used in the District:

Stockpile Placement and Protection

- Build Stockpiles away from critical areas such as streams, drainage ways and stormwater inlets.
- Cover stockpiles, using tarps or seed and mulch.

Sediment Tanks & Dewatering Devices

- Obtain a Discharge Permit from DC Water when dewatering from construction sites into the combined sewer system.
- Maintain by removing and properly disposing of accumulated sediment.

To comply with the District’s Stormwater Management and Erosion and Sediment Control Regulations, you must:

- Submit an Erosion Sediment Control Plan (ESCP) and, where applicable, a Storm Water Management (SWM) Plan with the Building Permit Application to the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA).
- Contact the Inspection and Enforcement Branch (IEB) of the Watershed Protection Division (WPD) to schedule a pre-construction meeting at least 72 hours before the start of the land disturbing activity, and after the Building Permit has been issued.
- Install all ESC Best Management Practices (BMP), as described by the approved ESCP and the Inspectors approval at the pre-construction meeting.
- Inspect all ESC BMP regularly, and maintain them as described in the approved ESCP.
- Contact the IEB to schedule inspections of all activities related to construction of storm water BMP.
- Stabilize all earth disturbances using permanent stabilization methods, as described by the approved ESCP.
- Remove ESC BMP after the site is stabilized as instructed by the DDOE IEB.
- Submit an As-Built of the completed Stormwater BMP within 21 days after Final Inspection of Construction.

For further information about erosion and sediment control practices in the District of Columbia see the District of Columbia Watershed Protection Division 2003 Standards and Specification for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control on the web at:
ddooe.dc.gov/soil-erosion-and-sediment-control-handbook

Contact the Chief of the Inspections and Enforcement Branch of the WPD at 202-535-2243.

Specifications for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control at http://ddoe.dc.gov/service/watershedprotectiontechnical

- Use 2 inch stone, brickbats or approved recycled concrete with an under layer of filter fabric.
- Maintain Construction Entrances and Exits by replacing the stone and cleaning the tire wash rack.

Silt & Super Silt Fences

- Install before demolition or land disturbance begins and maintain them until final stabilization is completed.
- Bury 8 inches into the ground with 10 feet maximum separation between stakes.
- Secure ties every 24 inches at the top and midsections for Super Silt Fences.

Straw Bale Dikes

- Place at the toe of a slope with the ends tightly abutting.
- Embed each bale in the soil a minimum of 4 inches deep.
- Anchor each bale with rebar stakes driven through the bales 12 inches into the ground.
- Replace bales when they begin to fall apart.

Inlet Protection

- Install before demolition or land disturbance begins and maintain them until final stabilization is completed.
- Install within Grated, Curb or Median type storm water inlets.
- Maintain regularly by removing and properly disposing of accumulated sediment.

Final Inspections & Site Stabilization

- Install sod, seed and straw, and other landscape materials for final stabilization as directed by the approved ESCP.
- Remove temporary Erosion and Sediment Controls (ESC) best practices, after final stabilization at the direction of the District Department of the Environment (DDOE) Inspection and Enforcement Branch (IEB).
- Contact the IEB for final inspections of all stormwater management (SWM) facility construction and final land disturbing stabilization.
- Submit an As-Built plan to the IEB 21 days after final inspections of the SWM facility construction and land disturbance.