

# Sediment fencing

The most efficient and widely accepted sediment barrier for construction sites is a fence of specially-manufactured geotextile. Sediment fences trap the sediment while allowing water to leave the site. They are effective in retaining suspended solids coarser than 0.02 mm, are simple to construct, relatively inexpensive and easily relocated as development proceeds.

On a typical residential building block (approx. 700sq.m) a sediment fence should function well, providing it is situated on the low side of the block. If there needs to be a break in the fence for any reason (say, an access point) a contour bank/diversion bank or bund needs to be constructed to direct water back towards the fence. The sediment fence must have uphill returns at either end to prevent sediment from flowing around it.

## Construction notes

1. Construct sediment fences to follow the contours of the site as closely as possible.
2. Drive 1.5 metre long posts into the ground, a maximum of 3 metres apart.
3. Staple geotextile fabric to 40 mm square hardwood posts or wire to steel posts.
4. Dig bottom of fabric into a 150 mm deep trench along the up-slope line of the fence.
5. Backfill trench over base of fabric and compact on both sides.

## Tips for using a sediment fence

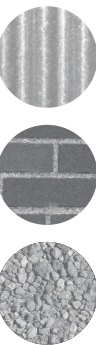
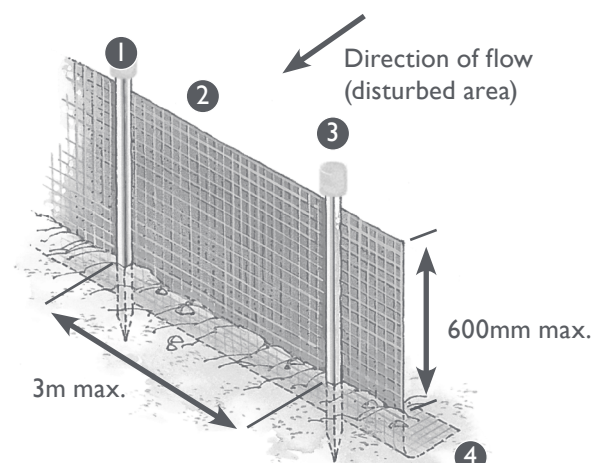
When using a sediment fence, keep in mind that it will be effective within the following parameters:

- It is generally not designed to filter concentrated flows and therefore needs to follow the contours of the site wherever possible.
- It should last for up to six months but requires regular maintenance and weekly checks. The performance of a sediment fence diminishes considerably if it is crushed by building materials or delivery vehicles. It must remain vertical and keyed into the soil.
- If the sediment fence is not installed correctly water will inevitably flow through the point of least resistance. Damaged fences must be repaired promptly.
- Sediment fences need to be trenched in at least 150 mm and buried so the water flows through, not underneath, them.
- Soil on both sides of the fence must be compacted to avoid seepage under the barrier.

## Advantages

- Easily installed, relocated and removed.
- If adequately maintained, will last for the duration of the construction stage.

- 1 Metal star pickets driven firmly into ground
- 2 Geotextile filler fabric
- 3 Plastic safety cap
- 4 150mm underground



**WARNING: \$300 on-the-spot fine may apply.**

## For further information

**Environment Protection Authority** Your Industry Association  
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Freecall (country): 1800 623 445  
Website: [www.epa.sa.gov.au](http://www.epa.sa.gov.au)  
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