

ESC | Checklist for house sites

This checklist has been prepared as a guide to best practice erosion and sediment control (ESC) for house builders. If you answer 'NO' to any of the questions below, you might not have adequate ESC measures in place on your work site. Visit waterbydesign.com.au/esc for more information.

Download the iAuditor app and search for 'HLW ESC' for an online interactive version of the checklist. Download the app here: app.safetyculture.com/.

PLANNING YOUR SITE

1 Plan your site			
1.1	Have all staff, trades and suppliers been made aware of the pollution prevention requirements on this site and the consequences if they breach these requirements?	Yes	No
1.2	Have all areas of exposed soil been covered at the time of handover to the client?	Yes	No
1.3	If you answered 'No', has the client been advised in writing of their obligations to have adequate ESC measures in place?	Yes	No
1.4	Has an ESC plan been developed for your site by a suitably qualified professional?	Yes	No
1.5	Is your ESC plan on display in an easily accessible location?	Yes	No
1.6a	Have you checked that your on-site ESC measures have been installed per the plan?	Yes	No
1.6b	If not effective, have you amended the plan to suit your site conditions?	Yes	No

EROSION PROTECTION

2 Soil cover			
2.1	Has all exposed soil around the site been covered to minimise erosion?	Yes	No
2.2	Is soil cover adequate and does not require maintenance?	Yes	No
3 Kerb to lot groundcover			
3.1	Is the road verge fully covered by turf or other groundcover?	Yes	No
3.2	Are vehicles and materials being kept off the verge groundcover?	Yes	No
3.3	Is the verge groundcover adequate and does not require maintenance?	Yes	No
3.4	Is the road and verge outside my site clean of loose soil and sediment?	Yes	No
3.5	Are the sediment controls only installed in the roadside gutter or at stormwater inlets with the local council's approval?	Yes	No
4 Stockpile protection			
4.1	Are erodible stockpiles securely covered if not in use (e.g. brickies loam, top soil)?	Yes	No
4.2	If not securely covered, are stockpiles located behind an appropriate sediment barrier?	Yes	No
4.3	Are stockpiles adequately protected and do not require maintenance?	Yes	No

DRAINAGE CONTROL

5 Run-off from adjacent sites		
5 Proceed with the following question if significant stormwater run-off from adjacent lots is likely to enter your site (i.e. area greater than 1,500m ² or 3 house lots).		
5.1	Have adequate drainage diversions been installed and adequately maintained to divert run-off from adjacent sites?	Yes No
5 Downpipe connections		
5 Proceed with the following questions if the roof has been laid, otherwise, proceed to Q7.		
5.2	Are all temporary or permanent downpipes appropriately connected to the stormwater system?	Yes No
5.3	Are the downpipes free of kinks and rips, and securely connected at each end?	Yes No
5.4	Are all downpipes fully operational and do not require maintenance?	Yes No
6 Stormwater inlet protection		
6.1	Are all on-site stormwater inlets adequately protected against sediment entry?	Yes No
6.2	The on-site stormwater inlets do not require sediment removal or maintenance?	Yes No

SEDIMENT CONTROL

7 Entry/exit rock pad		
7.1	Has a stabilised entry/exit rock pad been installed to the correct specifications?	Yes No
7.2	Has loose soil been prevented from being tracked onto the road?	Yes No
8 Coarse sediment barriers		
8.1	Have effective sediment barriers been installed on-site and to the correct specifications?	Yes No
8.2	Are the sediment barriers free of excessive sediment build-up, rips or gaps?	Yes No
8.3	Are all sediment barriers fully operational and do not require maintenance?	Yes No

OTHER POLLUTANT CONTROLS

9 Capture cement runoff and other 'wet trades'		
9.1	Has wastewater from other 'wet trades' (e.g. painting, plastering) been prevented from entering stormwater inlets or from flowing off-site?	Yes No
9.2	Are the controls adequate to prevent concrete slurry and wastewater from entering stormwater inlets (e.g. from exposed aggregate, driveway washdown, acid washing)?	Yes No
9.3	Has all concrete waste material been cleaned from the road and gutter?	Yes No
10 Waste skip/cage		
10.1	Is there a waste skip or cage located on-site?	Yes No
10.2	Is all building waste, food and drink containers that could wash or blow off-site going into the skip bin or cage?	

Toolkit for house builders

Why is sediment a problem?

Soil particles washed off the land into our waterways are called sediment, which contain pollutants and reduce water quality. This threatens the many social and economic benefits our waterways provide, including recreation, tourism and the security of our drinking water supply.

The release of sediment from construction and building sites is one of the primary sources of sediment in our waterways.

Benefits for builders

Adopting best-practice ESC not only helps keep sediment pollution out of our waterways, it provides the following

- Saves time and money by not having to clean up sediment or replace lost materials after rain.
- Reduces the likelihood of a fine or prosecution for polluting the environment.
- Reduces complaints related to dust and stormwater pollution.
- Improves relationships and trust with the local council and the community.
- Promotes and associates your business with protecting the environment.

It's the law!

The Queensland Environmental Protection Act 1994 sets out a number of legal requirements and offences relating to sediment pollution and water contamination. Find out more at www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/management/soil/erosion

5 principles of erosion and sediment control

There are five key principles to ensure you are achieving your legislative and best practice ESC requirements. With the assistance of the industry, Water by Design have developed ten simple factsheets that builders can undertake to minimise soil erosion on building sites which can be accessed online at waterbydesign.org.au/esc.



Find out more at waterbydesign.com.au/esc