Block and Gravel Inlet Protection (BIP)

Photo courtesy of CPESC, Inc.

Practice Description

Block and gravel inlet protection is a sediment control barrier formed around a storm drain inlet by the use of standard concrete block and gravel. The purpose is to help minimize sediment entering storm drains during construction. This practice applies where use of the storm drain system is necessary during construction and inlets have a drainage area of 1 acre or less and an approach slope of 1% or less.

Typical Components of the Practice

- Site Preparation
- Installation of Blocks, Wire Mesh and Gravel
- Erosion Control
- Construction Verification

Construction

Prior to start of construction, block and gravel inlet protection should be designed by a qualified design professional. Plans and specifications should be referred to by field personnel throughout the construction process.

Site Preparation

Determine exact location of underground utilities.

Clear area of all debris that might hinder excavation and disposal of spoil.

Grade the approach to the inlet uniformly. The top elevation of the structure must be lower than the ground elevation downslope from the inlet. It is important that all storm flows pass over the structure and into the storm drain and not past the structure. Temporary dikes below the structure may be necessary to prevent bypass flow. Material may be excavated from inside the sediment pool for this purpose.

Installation of Blocks, Wire Mesh and Gravel

Lay one block on its side in the bottom row on each side of the structure to allow pool drainage. The foundation should be excavated below the crest of the storm drain to the depth shown on the drawings. Place the bottom row of blocks against the edge of the storm drain for lateral support and to avoid washouts when overflow occurs. If needed, give lateral support to subsequent rows by placing 2" x 4" wood studs through block openings.

Place hardware cloth or comparable wire mesh with ½" openings over all block openings to hold gravel in place.

Place stone of the specified gradation around blocks to the lines and dimensions shown on the drawings and smooth to an even grade.

Erosion Control

Stabilize disturbed areas in accordance with the vegetation plan.

Construction Verification

Check finished grades and dimensions of block and gravel barrier. Check materials for compliance with specifications.

Common Problems

Consult with qualified design professional if the following occurs:

- Variations in topography on site indicate block and gravel drop inlet protection will not function as intended; changes in plan may be needed.

Maintenance

Inspect the barrier after each rain and make repairs as needed.

Remove sediment promptly following storms to provide adequate storage volume for subsequent rains and prevent sediment entering the storm drain in subsequent rains.

If the gravel becomes clogged with sediment so that barrier does not drain properly, remove gravel and replace with clean gravel of the specified gradation.

When the contributing drainage area has been adequately stabilized, remove all materials and any sediment, bring the disturbed area to proper grade and stabilize it with vegetation or other materials shown in the design plan.

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Brush/Fabric Barrier (BFB)

Practice Description

A brush/fabric barrier is a dam-like structure constructed from woody residue and faced with a geotextile fabric to provide a temporary sediment basin. This practice is applicable on sites with a small drainage area where brush and other woody debris are available from a clearing and grubbing operation.

Typical Components of the Practice

- Site Preparation
- Materials Installation
- Construction Verification

Construction

Prior to start of construction a qualified design professional should determine the location, and storage for the barrier. Typically, brush/fabric barriers are constructed where materials are readily available and at a location with adequate storage characteristics.

Site Preparation

The foundation for the barrier should be relatively smooth prior to placement of the cleared and grubbed material.

Materials Installation

Place the cleared and grubbed material in a densely compacted row, mostly on the contour with each end upturned so that excessive flows will go over the top of the barrier and not around the ends of the barrier.

Densely packed material should be placed so that the main stems of the woody debris are aligned with the length of the barrier. Small stems and limbs protruding from the bundle that could damage the fabric should be trimmed.

Generally, the barrier should be at least 3 feet tall, but no more than 6 feet tall. The width of the barrier perpendicular to the direction of flow should be at least 5 feet at its base.

Geotextile filter fabric consistent with the fabric used for silt fencing can be used to cover the face of the barrier. It is best to use wide and long rolls of the fabric so that splicing is minimized or eliminated.

The fabric should be securely buried at the bottom of an excavated trench that is at least 6" deep in front of the barrier. Prior to backfilling the trench, the fabric should be securely staked at 3 foot centers with minimum 18" long wooden stakes.

Avoid longitudinal splices of the fabric. Vertical splices must be securely fastened to each other so that flows will not short circuit through the splice. The minimum vertical splice overlap should be 3 foot.

The top edge of the fabric should be secured so that it will not sag below the designed storage elevation. The upper edge can be anchored with twine fastened to the fabric and secured to stakes behind the barrier.

Construction Verification

Check finished size, elevation, storage, and shape for compliance with standard drawings and materials list (check for compliance with specifications if included in contract specifications).

Common Problems

Consult with a qualified design professional if any of the following occur:

- Variations in topography on site indicate brush/fabric barrier will not function as intended. Change in plan will be needed.
- There is not adequate cleared woody material to construct the barrier.
- Materials specified in the plan are not available.

Maintenance

Inspect the barrier for short-circuiting of water or flow around the ends of the barrier after each significant rainfall event.

Sediment should be removed if it reaches a depth of ½ the original fabric height. If the area behind the barrier fills with sediment there is a greater likelihood that water will flow around the end of the barrier and cause the practice to fail.

Large rainfall events that overtop the structure can result in gully erosion behind the barrier. This should be repaired as needed.

Brush/fabric barriers are temporary structures and should be removed when their useful life has been completed. All accumulated sediment should be properly stabilized and the area where the barrier was located should be seeded and mulched immediately unless a different treatment is prescribed.

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Fabric Drop Inlet Protection (FIP)

Practice Description

Fabric drop inlet protection is a structurally supported geotextile barrier placed around or over a drop inlet to prevent sediment from entering storm drains during construction. This practice applies where early use of the storm drain system is necessary prior to stabilization of the disturbed drainage area. This practice is suitable for inlets with a drainage area of less than 1 acre and a gentle approach slope generally of 1% or less.

Typical Components of the Practice

- Site Preparation
- Structural Frame Installation
- Fabric Installation
- Grading
- Stabilization
- Construction Verification

(Note: Premanufactured fabric drop inlet protective structures should be installed and maintained according to the manufacturer's requirements.)

Installation

Prior to start of construction, fabric drop inlet protection structures should be designed by a qualified professional. Plans and specifications should be available to field personnel.

Site Preparation

The soil around the drop inlet should be well compacted. The area around the drop inlet should be shaped, if necessary, to store the runoff on an almost level area. If runoff could bypass the protected inlet, a temporary dike should be planned and force the runoff to be trapped by the protective device.

Structural Frame Installation

The frame (pre-manufactured or constructed) should provide the internal support necessary to prevent the structure from buckling, the fabric from sagging, or the fabric from being undermined. Frames should be positioned so that water which overtops the device goes directly into the inlet and doesn't cause erosion between the frame and inlet. Pre-manufactured frames should be installed according to manufacturer's recommendations.

Fabric Installation

Generally, fabric is installed by one of two methods:

Fabric can be buried vertically in a trench. The trench is excavated at least 12 inches into compacted soil adjacent to the inlet. Support posts are installed securely against the exterior of the drop inlet. Fabric along with wire fence is secured in the bottom of the trench and against the exterior surface of the inlet with stakes no more than 2 feet apart and driven at least 6 inches into the soil. The trench is backfilled with hand-compacted soil to the density equivalent to the surrounding soil. Fence and fabric are secured to the posts and the structure internally supported to meet the structural requirements of the device.

Fabric for pre-manufactured drop inlet protective devices is generally secured with ballast pockets on well compacted soil around the inlet. Install these according to manufacturer's recommendations.

Grading

If needed to prevent bypass flow or ensure adequate storage, construct a temporary dike on the down slope side of the structure. Material from within the sediment pool may be used for dike construction. To be effective, the site must create the specified volume of ponding around the fabric structure.

Stabilization

Stabilize all bare areas that drain to the inlet with temporary seeding and mulching unless construction will disturb it within 13 days.

Construction Verification

Check finished grades and dimensions of fabric drop inlet protection structures.

Common Problems

Consult with a qualified design professional if any of the following occur:

- Variations in site conditions indicate that the practice will not function as intended; change in plan may be needed.
- Sediment not removed from pool resulting in inadequate storage volume for the next storm.
- Top of fabric set too high; resulting in flow bypassing the inlet.
- Fabric is not adjacent to the inlet exterior surface; resulting in erosion and undercutting of inlet.

Maintenance

Inspect fabric barrier after each rainfall event and make needed repairs immediately.

Remove sediment from the pool area when sediment has reached ½ the fabric height. Take care not to damage or undercut the fabric during the sediment removal.

When the contributing drainage area has been adequately stabilized, remove all materials and unstable sediment and dispose of properly. Fill the disturbed area to the grade of the drop inlet. Stabilize disturbed areas in accordance with the plans.

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Filter Strip (FS)

Practice Description

A filter strip is a wide belt of vegetation designed to provide infiltration, intercept sediment and other pollutants, and reduce stormwater flow and velocity. Filter strips are similar to grassed swales except that they are designed to accept only overland sheet flow (not channel flow). They cannot treat high velocity flows. Surface runoff must be evenly distributed across the filter strip. Vegetation may consist of existing cover that is preserved and protected or be planted to establish the strip. Once a channel forms in the filter strip, the filter strip is no longer effective. This practice applies on construction sites and other disturbed areas.

Typical Components of the Practice

- Preservation and Protection of Existing Vegetation
- Site Preparation
- Applying Soil Amendments
- Planting
- Mulching
- Construction Verification

Installation- preservation of existing vegetation

Prior to start of installation, filter strips should be designed by a qualified professional. Plans and specifications should be referred to by field personnel throughout the construction process.

Preserve vegetation on designated areas listed in plan and avoid surface disturbances that affect sheet flow of stormwater runoff.

At the start of development, fence off any undisturbed strips to be preserved.

Avoid storing debris from clearing and grubbing, and other construction waste material in strips during construction.

Installation-planting

Site Preparation

Prior to start of installation, filter strips should be designed by a qualified professional. Plans and specifications should be referred to by field personnel throughout the construction process. The filter strip should be installed according to planned alignment, grade and cross section.

If the upper area does not have a level edge, remove any obstructions and grade a level swale at the top edge of the filter strip. The swale should discharge to the filter strip along the level edge and serve as a level spreader to distribute runoff evenly to the filter strip.

Any rills and gullies over the filter strip area must be filled and smoothed to ensure that overland flow will discharge across the filter strip along a smooth surface.

Seedbed Preparation

Grade and loosen soil to a smooth firm surface to enhance rooting of seedlings and reduce rill erosion. If they exist, break up large clods and loosen compacted, hard or crusted soil surfaces with a disk, ripper, chisel, harrow or other tillage equipment. Avoid preparing the seedbed under excessively wet conditions.

For broadcast seeding and drilling, tillage should adequately loosen the soil to a depth of at least 6”, alleviate compaction, and smooth and firm the soil for the proper placement of seed.

For no-till drilling, the soil surface does not need to be loosened unless the site has surface compaction. If shallow compaction exists, the area should be chiseled across the slope to a depth of at least 6”. If compaction exists between 6” and 12” the area should be chiseled or subsoiled at least 12”.

Applying Soil Amendments

Liming

Follow the design plan or soil test recommendation. If a plan or soil test is not available, use 2 tons/acre of ground agricultural lime on clayey soils (approximately 90 lbs/1000 ft^2) and 1 ton/acre on sandy soils (approximately 45 lbs/1000 ft^2). Exception: If the cover is tall fescue and clover, use the 2 tons/acre rate (90 lbs/1000 ft^2) on both clayey and sandy soils.

Spread the specified amount of lime and incorporate into the top 6" of soil after applying fertilizer.

Fertilizing

Apply a complete fertilizer at rates specified in the design plan or soil test recommended. In the absence of soil tests, use the following as a guide: Grass alone: 8-24-24 or equivalent – 400 lbs/acre (9.2 lbs/1000 ft^2). When vegetation has emerged to a stand and is growing, 30 to 40 lbs/acre (0.8 lb/1000 ft^2) of additional nitrogen fertilizer should be applied.

Grass – Legume Mixture: 8-24-24 or equivalent – 400 lbs/acre (9.2 lbs/1000 ft^2). When vegetation has emerged to a stand and is growing, 30 to 40 lbs (0.8 lb/1000 ft^2) of additional nitrogen fertilizer should be applied.

Legume alone: 0-20-20 or equivalent – 500 lbs/acre (11.5 lbs/1000 ft^2).

> *Note: Fertilizer can be blended to meet exact fertilizer recommendations. Take soil test recommendations to local fertilizer dealer for bulk fertilizer blends. This may be more economical than bagged fertilizer.*

Incorporate lime and fertilizer to a minimum depth of at least 6" or more by disking or chiseling on slopes of up to 3:1.

Planting

Plant the species specified in the plan at the rate and depth specified. In the absence of plans and specifications, plant species and seeding rates may be selected by qualified persons using Figure FS-1 and Table FS-1.

Apply seed uniformly using a cyclone seeder, drill seeder, cultipacker seeder or hydroseeder.

When using a drill seeder, plant grasses and legumes ¼" to ½" deep. Calibrate equipment in the field.

When planting by methods other than a drill seeder, cover seed by raking, or dragging a chain, brush or mat. Then firm the soil lightly with a roller. Seed can also be covered with hydro-mulched wood fiber and tackifier. Legumes require inoculation with nitrogen-fixing bacteria to ensure good growth. Purchase inoculum specific for the seed and mix with seed prior to planting

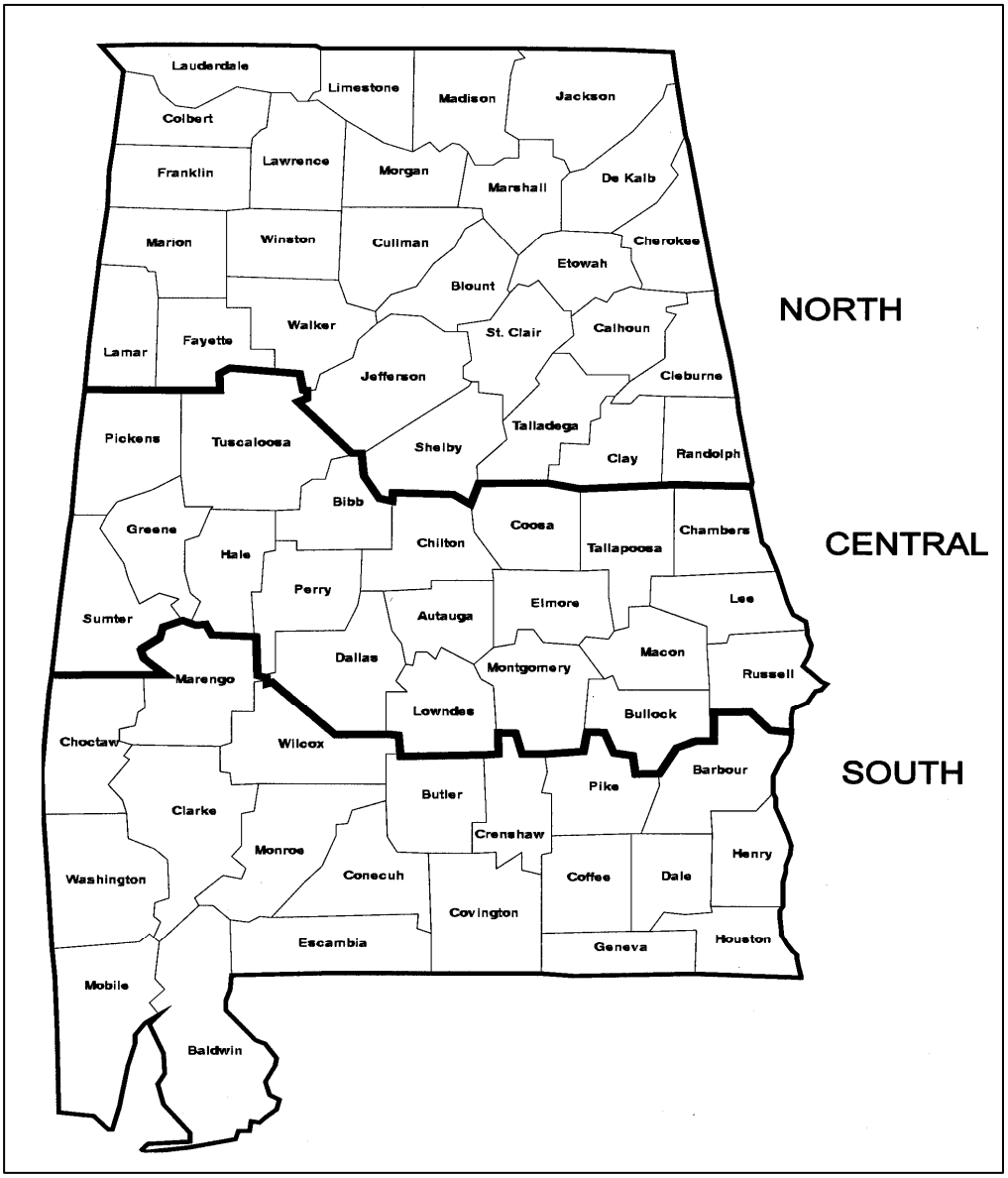

Figure FS-1 Geographical Areas for Species Adaptation

Mulching

Cover 65% to 75% of the surface with the specified mulch materials. Crimp, tack or tie down straw mulch with netting. Mulching is extremely important for successful seeding *(See Mulching practice for more details).*

Table FS-1 Commonly Used Plants for Permanent Cover with Rates and Dates

Species	Seeding Rates/Ac PLS [1]	North	Central	South
			Seeding Dates	
Bahiagrass, Pensacola	40 lbs	--	Mar 1-July 1	Feb 1-Nov 1 [2]
Bermudagrass, Common	10 lbs	Apr 1-July 1	Mar 15-July 15	Mar 1-July 15
Bahiagrass, Pensacola **Bermudagrass, Common**	30 lbs 5 lbs	--	Mar 1-July 1	Mar 1-July 15
Bermudagrass, Hybrid (Lawn Types)	Solid Sod	Anytime	Anytime	Anytime
Bermudagrass, Hybrid (Lawn Types)	Sprigs 1/sq ft	Mar 1-Aug 1	Mar 1-Aug 1	Feb 15 - Sep 1
Fescue, Tall	40-50 lbs	Sep 1-Nov 1	Sep 1-Nov 1	--
Sericea	40-60 lbs	Mar 15-July 15	Mar 1-July 15	Feb 15 -July 15
Sericea & Common Bermudagrass	40-60 lbs 10 lbs	Mar 15-July 15	Mar 1-July 15	Feb 15-July 15
Switchgrass, Alamo	4 lbs	Apr 1-Jun 15	Mar 15-Jun 15	Mar 15-Jun 15

[1] PLS means pure live seed and is used to adjust seeding rates. For example, to plant 10 lbs PLS of a species with germination of 80% and 10% inert material, 10 lbs PLS = 10 lbs/ % live seed = 10/ 0.70 = 14.3 lbs.

[2] Fall planting of Bahia should contain 45 lbs. of small grain to provide cover during winter months.

Construction Verification

Check materials and installation for compliance with specifications during installation of products.

Common Problems

Consult with a qualified professional if the following occurs:

- Variations in topography on site indicate filter strip will not function as intended.
- Design specifications for seed variety, seeding dates or mulching cannot be met; substitutions may be required. Unapproved substitutions could lead to failure.
- Seeding at the wrong time of the year results in an inadequate stand. Reseed according to specifications of a qualified professional.

- Inadequate mulching results in an inadequate stand, bare spots or eroded areas; prepare seedbed, reseed, cover seed evenly and tack or tie down mulch, especially on slopes, ridges and in channels (see recommendations under Maintenance).

Maintenance

Erosion

Check for eroded channels in the filter strip after every storm event until the vegetation is well established. Eroded areas should be repaired by filling and/or smoothing, and reapplication of lime, fertilizer, seed and mulch. It is particularly important that the surface is smooth and promotes sheet flow of storm runoff. Generally, a stand of vegetation cannot be determined to be fully established until vegetative cover has been maintained for at least 1 year after planting.

Reseeding

Inspect seeding monthly for stand survival and vigor.

If stand is inadequate identify the cause of failure – choice of plant materials, lime and fertilizer quantities, poor seedbed preparation or weather – and take corrective action. If vegetation fails to grow, have the soil tested to determine whether pH is in the correct range or nutrient deficiency is a problem.

Stand conditions, particularly percent coverage, will determine the extent of remedial actions such as seedbed preparation and reseeding. A qualified professional should be consulted to advise on remedial actions. Consider drill seeding if enough residue exists.

Fertilizing

Establishment may require refertilizing the stand in the second growing season. Follow soil test recommendations or the specifications provided for establishment..

Mowing

Mow vegetation to prevent woody plants from invading.

Certain species can be weakened by mowing regimes that significantly reduce their food reserves stored for the next growing season: fescue should not be mowed closer than 4” during the summer; sericea should not be mowed closer than 4” during the growing season and it should not be mowed at all between late summer and frost.

Bermuda grass and bahiagrass are tolerant of most mowing regimes and can be mowed often and close, if so desired, during their growing season.

Floating Turbidity Barrier (FB)

Practice Description

A floating turbidity barrier consists of geotextile material (curtain) with floats on the top, weights on the bottom, and an anchorage system that minimizes sediment transport from a disturbed area that is adjacent to or within a body of water. The barrier provides sedimentation and turbidity protection for a watercourse from up-slope land disturbance activities where conventional erosion and sediment controls cannot be used or need supplemental control, or from dredging or filling operations within a watercourse. The practice can be used in non-tidal and tidal watercourses where intrusion into the watercourse by construction activities has been permitted and subsequent sediment movement is unavoidable.

Typical Components of the Practice

- Site Preparation
- Materials Installation
- Construction Verification
- Removal

Construction

Prior to the start of construction a qualified professional should determine the type of barrier to be used, location, and installation procedures for the barrier.

Site Preparation

If a floating turbidity barrier is specified in the erosion and sediment control plan, it should be installed before any land disturbing activities. Shoreline anchor points should be located according to the plans.

Materials Installation

When installing Type I barrier in the calm water of lakes or ponds it is usually sufficient to merely set the curtain end stakes or anchor points (using anchor buoys if bottom anchors are employed), then tow the curtain in the furled condition out and attach it to these stakes or anchor points. Following this, any additional stakes or buoyed anchors required to maintain the desired location of the curtain may be set and these anchor points made fast to the curtain. Only then, the furling lines should be cut to let the curtain skirt drop.

When installing Type II or III barriers in rivers or in other moving water it is important to set all the curtain anchor points. Care must be taken to ensure that anchor points are of sufficient holding power to retain the curtain under the expected current conditions, before putting the furled curtain into the water. Anchor buoys should be employed on all anchors to prevent the current from submerging the flotation at the anchor points. If the moving water into which the curtain is being installed is tidal and will subject the curtain to currents in both directions as the tide changes, it is important to provide anchors on both sides of the curtain for 2 reasons:

- Curtain movement will be minimized during tidal current reversals.
- The curtain will not overrun the anchors pulling them out when the tide reverses.

When the anchors are secure, the furled curtain should be secured to the upstream anchor point and then sequentially attached to each next downstream anchor point until the entire curtain is in position. At this point, and before unfurling, the "lay" of the curtain should be assessed and any necessary adjustments made to the anchors. Finally, when the location is ascertained to be as desired the furling lines should be cut to allow the skirt to drop.

The anchoring line attached to the flotation device on the downstream side will provide support for the curtain. Attaching the anchors to the bottom of the curtain could cause premature failure of the curtain due to the stresses imparted on the middle section of the curtain.

Construction Verification

Check the type floating turbidity barrier, installation location, and the installation and anchorage procedures for compliance with the standard drawings and materials list (check for compliance with specifications if included in contract specifications).

Removal

Care should be taken to protect the skirt from damage as the turbidity curtain is dragged from the water.

The site selected to bring the curtain ashore should be free of sharp rocks, broken cement, debris, etc. so as to minimize damage when hauling the curtain over the area.

If the curtain has a deep skirt, it can be further protected by running a small boat along its length with a crew installing furling lines before attempting to remove the curtain from the water.

Common Problems

Consult with a qualified design professional if any of the following occur:

- Variations in topography on site indicate that a floating turbidity barrier will not function as intended. Change in plan will be needed.
- The specified anchorage system will not function as planned.
- Turbid water is escaping from the barrier enclosure.
- Materials specified in the plan are not available.

Maintenance

The floating turbidity barrier should be maintained for the duration of the project to ensure the continuous protection of the watercourse. Anchors, anchor lines and buoys must be regularly checked to remove debris.

If repairs to the geotextile fabric become necessary, there are normally repair kits available from the manufacturer. Follow the manufacturer's instructions to ensure the adequacy of the repair.

When the curtain is no longer required as determined by the responsible individual, the curtain and related components should be removed in such a manner as to minimize turbidity. If required by the contract or the responsible individual, sediment should be removed and the original depth (or plan elevation) restored before removing the curtain. Remaining sediment should be sufficiently settled before removing the curtain. Any spoils should be taken to an upland area and stabilized.

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Rock Filter Dam (RD)

Practice Description

A rock filter dam is a stone embankment designed to help capture sediment in natural drainageways on construction sites. This practice can be used as a fore bay to a sediment basin to help capture coarser particles of sediment. It is usually located so that it intercepts runoff primarily from disturbed areas, is accessible for periodic sediment removal and does not interfere with construction activities

Typical Components of the Practice

- Site Preparation
- Rock Placement
- Erosion and Sediment Control
- Construction Verification

Construction

Prior to start of construction, rock dams should be designed by a qualified design professional. The rock filter dam plan should include details on dam height, dam top width, dam side slopes and rock size(s). Plans and specifications should be referred to by field personnel throughout the construction process.

Site Preparation

Determine exact location of underground utilities and avoid construction over and under utilities.

Clear and grub the area under the dam, removing and properly disposing of all root material, brush and other debris.

Divert runoff from undisturbed areas away from the rock dam and basin area. Smooth the dam foundation.

If specified, cover the foundation with geotextile fabric, making sure the upstream strips overlap the downstream strips at least 1 foot and the upslope end is embedded into the foundation at least 1 foot.

Rock Placement

Construct the dam by placing well graded, hard, angular, durable rock of the specified size over the foundation to planned dimensions and securely embed into both channel banks.

Once the dam is in place, clear the sediment basin area and dispose of the cleared material.

Set a marker stake to indicate the clean out elevation (i.e., point at which the basin is 50% full of sediment).

Erosion and Sediment Control

Stabilize all disturbed areas with either Temporary or Permanent Seeding.

Construction Verification

Check materials and finished elevations of the rock filter dam for compliance with specifications.

Common Problems

Consult with qualified design professional if the following occurs:

- Variations in topography on-site indicate rock filter dam will not function as intended; changes in plan may be needed.
- Materials specified in the plan are not available.

Maintenance

Inspect the rock dam and basin after each storm event.

Check the dam for rock displacement and abutments for erosion and repair immediately when repair is needed. If rock size appears too small or embankment slope is too steep, replace stone with larger size or reduce slope.

Check the drainage way at toe of dam for erosion. If erosion is occurring, a repair involving geotextile fabric (including another toe-in) and additional rock are probably needed to establish a stable outlet.

Remove sediment from the pond reservoir area when it accumulates to ½ the design volume. If the basin does not drain between storms because the filter stone (small gravel) on the upstream face has become clogged, the clogged filter stone should be replaced with clean stone.

Once the construction site is permanently stabilized, remove the structure and any unstable sediment. Smooth the basin site to blend with the surrounding area and stabilize. Sediment should be placed in designated disposal areas and stabilized.

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Sediment Barrier (SB)

Practice Description

A sediment barrier is a temporary structure used across a landscape to reduce the quantity of sediment that is moving farther downslope. Commonly used barriers include silt fence (a geotextile fabric which is trenched into the ground and attached to supporting posts) or hay bales trenched into the ground. Other barrier materials include sand bags, brush piles and various man-made materials that can be used in a similar manner as silt fence and hay bales.

This practice applies where sheet and rill erosion occurs on small disturbed areas. Barriers intercept runoff from upslope to form ponds that temporarily store runoff and allow sediment to settle out of the water and stay on the construction site. Barriers can also prevent sheet erosion by decreasing the velocity of the runoff.

Typical Components of the Practice

- Site Preparation
- Barrier Installation
- Reinforce Outlet Bypass. (Not always applicable)
- Erosion Control
- Construction Verification

Construction

Prior to start of construction, sediment barriers should be designed by a qualified professional. Plans and specifications should be referred to by field personnel throughout the construction process.

Note: Silt fence is the only barrier installation being covered in this handbook.

Site Preparation

Determine exact location of underground utilities so that locations for digging or placement of stakes can be selected where utilities will not be damaged.

Smooth the construction zone to provide a broad, nearly level area for the fence. The area should be wide enough throughout the length of the fence to provide storage of runoff and sediment behind the fence.

Silt Fence Installation

Fence should be installed on the contour, so that runoff can be intercepted as sheet flow, Ends should be flared uphill to provide temporary storage of water. Fence should be placed so that runoff from disturbed areas must pass through the fence. Fence should not be placed across concentrated flow areas such as channels or waterways. When placed near the toe of a slope, the fence should be installed far enough from the slope toe to provide a broad flat area for adequate storage capacity for sediment. Dig a trench at least 6" deep along the fence alignment as shown in Figures SB-1 and SB-2 for Types A & B fences. Type C fences require only a 4" deep trench as shown in Figure SB 3. **Please note that installation with a silt fence installation machine may permit different depths if performance is equal.**

Drive posts at least 18" into the ground on the downslope side of the trench. Space posts a maximum of 10 feet if fence is supported by woven wire, or 6 feet if high strength fabric and no support fence is used.

Fasten support wire fence to upslope side of posts, extending 6" into the trench as shown in the appropriate figure for the type fence, see Figure SB-1, SB-2 or SB-3.

Attach continuous length of fabric to upslope side of fence posts. Minimize the number of joints and when necessary to join rolls, they should be joined by rolling the ends together using the "roll joint" method illustrated in Figure SB-4. Avoid joints at low points in the fence line.

For Type A & B silt fence, place the bottom 12" of fabric in the 6" deep (minimum) trench, lapping toward the upslope side. For Type C fabric place the bottom 6" in the 4" deep (minimum) trench lapping toward the upslope side.

Backfill the trench with compacted earth or gravel as shown in Figures SB-1, 2 and 3.

Provide good access in areas of heavy sedimentation for clean out and maintenance.

Erosion Control

Stabilize disturbed areas in accordance with vegetation plan. If no vegetation plan exists, consider planting and mulching as a part of barrier installation and select planting information from appropriate planting practice, Permanent Seeding or Temporary Seeding. Select mulching information from the Mulching practice.

Construction Verification

Check finished grades and dimensions of the sediment fence. Check materials for compliance with specifications.

Common Problems

Consult with a qualified design professional if any of the following occur:

- Variations in topography onsite indicate sediment fence will not function as intended or alignment is not on contour or fence crosses concentrated flow areas; changes in plan may be needed.
- Design specifications for filter fabric, support posts, support fence, gravel or riprap cannot be met; substitutions may be required. Unapproved substitutions could lead to failure.
- Drainage area appears to exceed ¼ acre for 100 feet of non-reinforced silt fence and ½ acre for reinforced fence.

Maintenance

Inspect sediment fences at least once a week and after each significant rain event.

Make required repairs immediately.

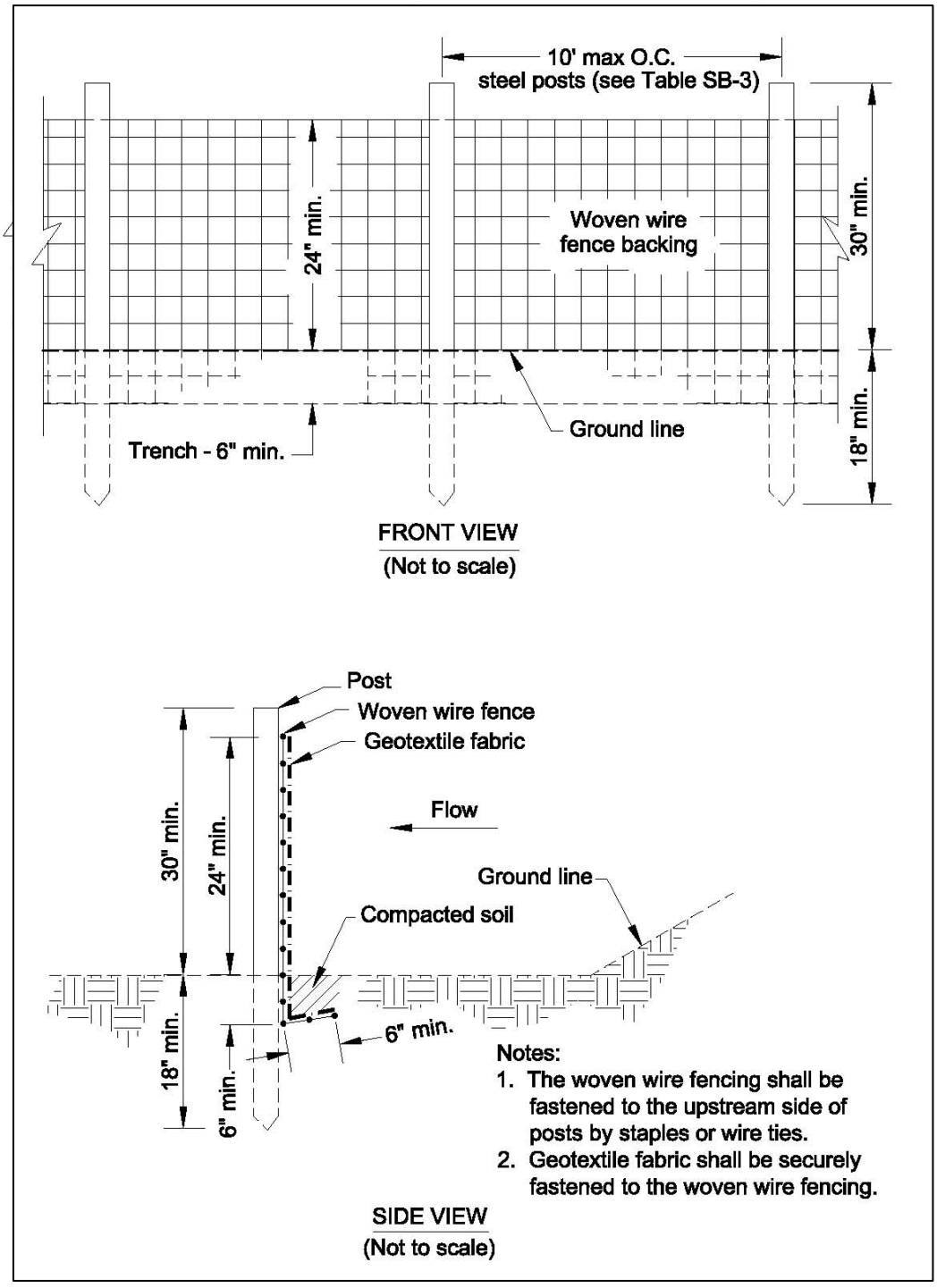

Figure SB-1 Silt Fence-Type A

(1) For fabric material requirements see Table SB-1
(2) For post material requirements see Tables SB-3 and SB-4

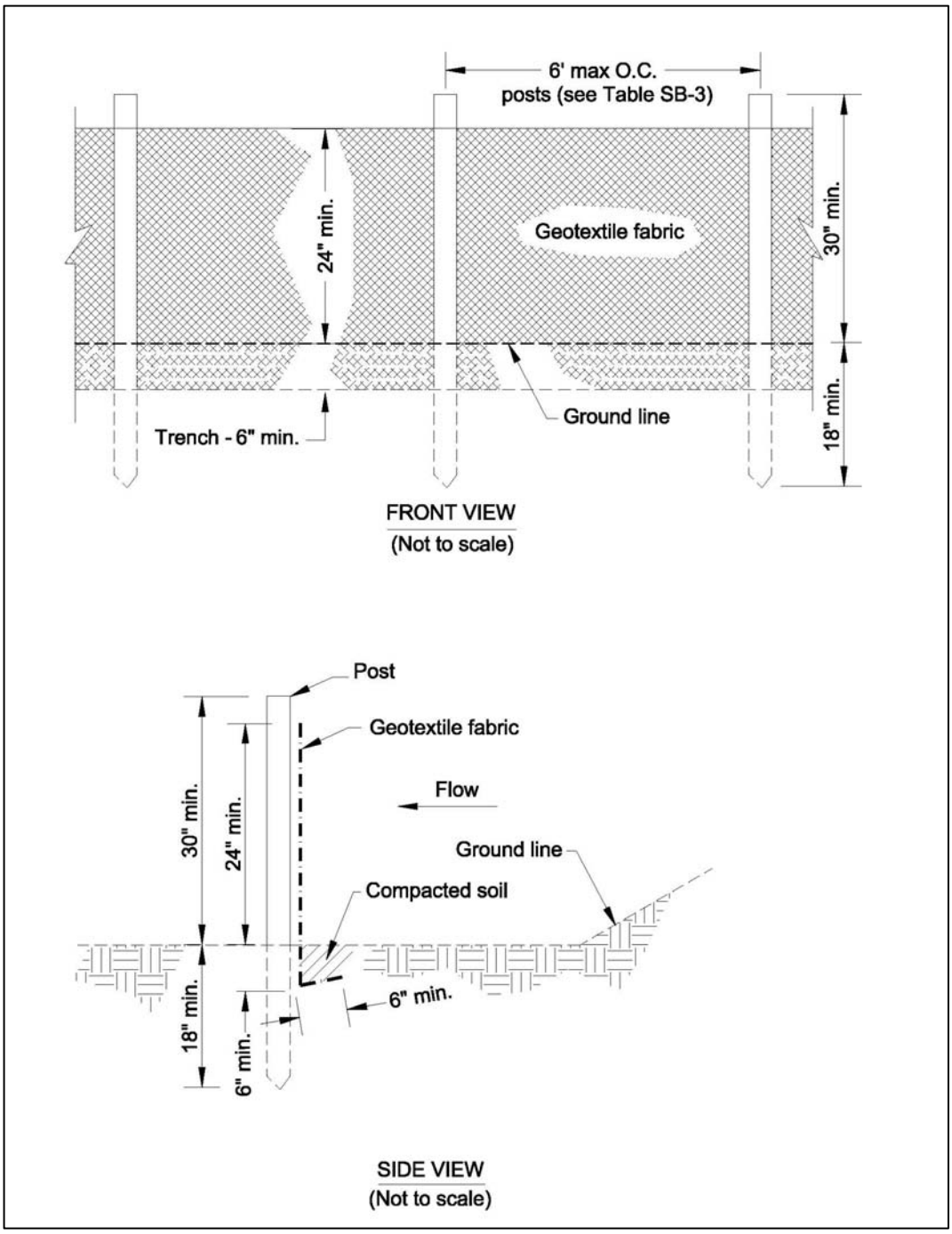

Figure SB-2 Silt Fence - Type B

(1) For fabric material requirements see Table SB-1
(2) For post material requirements see Tables SB-3 and SB-4

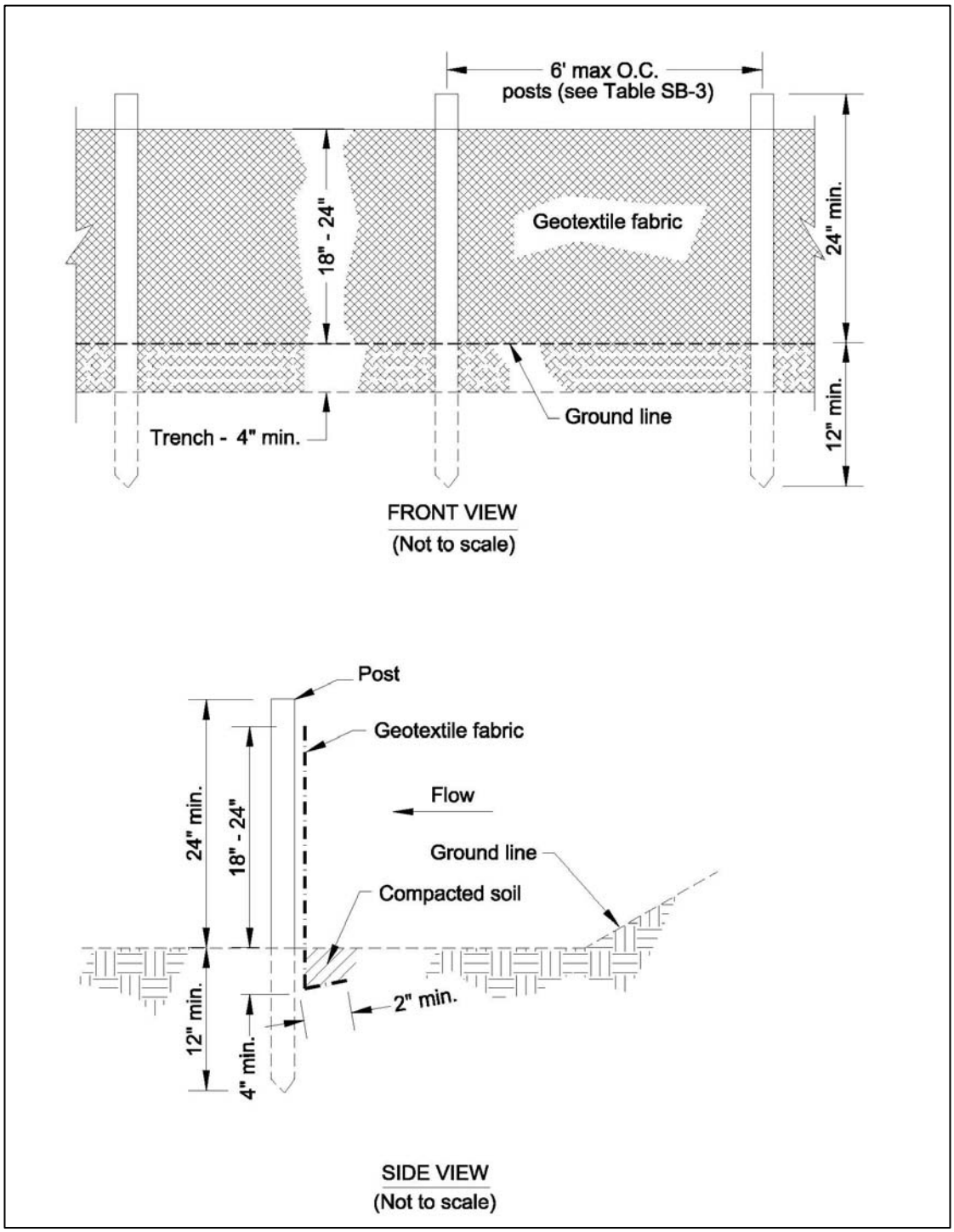

Figure SB-3 Silt Fence – Type C

(1) For fabric material requirements see Table SB-1
(2) For post material requirements see Tables SB-3 and SB-4

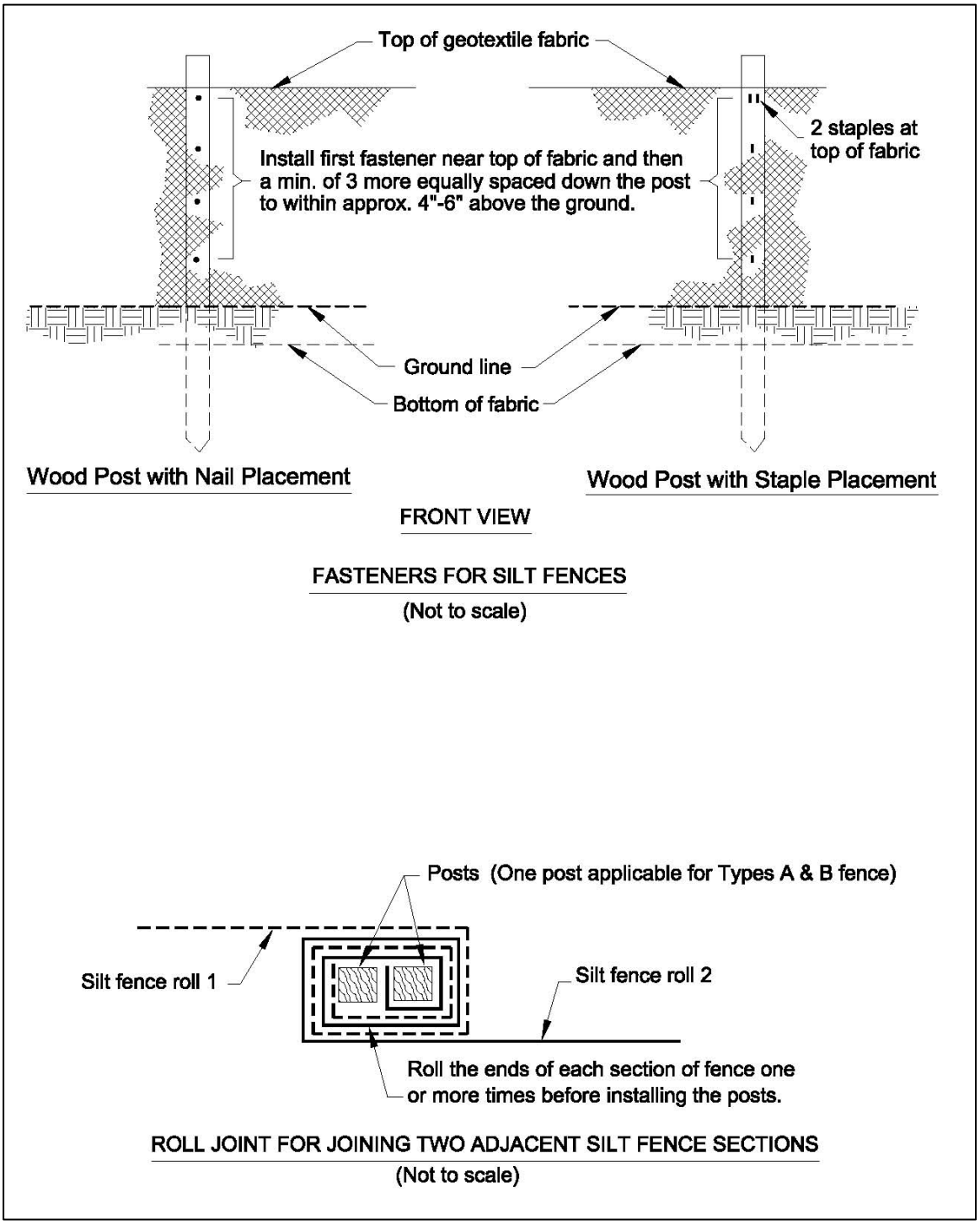

Figure SB-4 Silt Fence Installation Details

Should the fabric of silt fence collapse, tear, decompose or become ineffective, replace it promptly.

Remove sediment deposits when they reach a depth of 15” or ½ the height of the fence as installed to provide adequate storage volume for the next rain and to reduce pressure on the fence.

After the contributing drainage area has been properly stabilized, remove all barrier materials and unstable sediment deposits, bring the area to grade and stabilize it with vegetation.

Sediment Basin (SBN)

Practice Description

An earthen embankment suitably located to capture runoff, with an emergency spillway lined to prevent spillway erosion, interior porous baffles to reduce turbulence and evenly distribute flows, and equipped with a floating skimmer for dewatering. Sediment basins are designed to provide an area for runoff to pool and settle out a portion of the sediment. Old technology utilized a perforated riser for dewatering, which allowed water to leave the basin from all depths. One way to improve the sediment capture rate is to have an outlet which dewaters the basin from the top of the water column where the water is cleanest. A skimmer is probably the most common method to dewater a sediment basin from the surface. The basic concept is that the skimmer does not dewater the basin as fast as runoff enters it, but instead allows the basin to fill and then slowly drain over multiple days. This process has two effects. First, the sediment in the runoff has more time to settle out prior to discharge. Second, a pool of water forms early in a storm event and this further increases sedimentation rates in the basin. Many of the storms will produce more volume than the typical sediment basin capacity and flow rates in excess of the skimmer capability, resulting in flow over the emergency spillway. This water is also coming from the top of the water column and has thereby been “treated” to remove sediment as much as possible. (Adapted from SoilFacts: Dewatering

Sediment Basins Using Surface Outlets. N. C. State University, Soil Science Department.)

Typical Components of the Practice

- Site Preparation
- Keyway Trench
- Skimmer
- Embankment
- Emergency Spillway
- Basin and Baffles
- Erosion Control
- Safety
- Construction Verification

Construction

Prior to the start of construction, sediment basins should be designed by a qualified design professional.

Plans and specifications should be referred to by field personnel throughout the construction process. The sediment basin should be built according to planned grades and dimensions. Follow all federal, state and local requirements on impoundments.

Consider the following guidance as construction proceeds.

Site Preparation

Locate all utilities at the site to ensure avoidance.

Clear, grub and strip the dam foundation and emergency spillway area, removing all woody vegetation, rocks and other objectionable material. Dispose of trees, limbs, logs and other debris in designated disposal areas.

Stockpile surface soil for use later during topsoiling.

Delay clearing the pool area until the dam is complete and then remove brush, trees, and other objectionable materials to facilitate sediment cleanout.

Keyway Trench

Excavate the keyway trench along the centerline of the planned embankment to a depth determined by the qualified design professional (at least 2 feet).The trench bottom elevation should extend up both abutments to the riser crest elevation and have a bottom width of at least 8 feet and have side slopes no steeper than 1.5:1. Compaction requirements will be the same as those for the embankment.

Skimmer

Prevent the skimming device from settling into the mud by excavating a shallow pit under the skimmer or providing a low support under the skimmer of stone or timber. (Figure SBN-1)

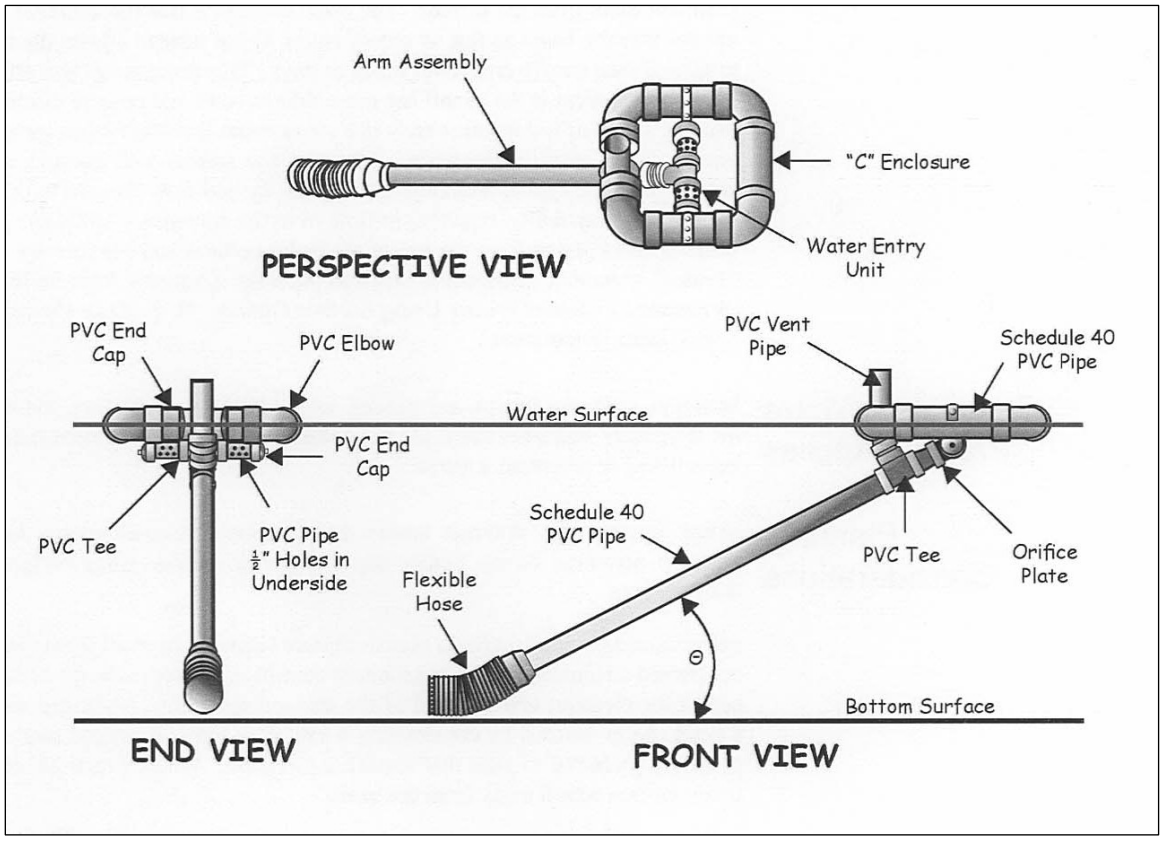

Figure SBN-1 Schematic of a skimmer.
(from Pennsylvania Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control Manual, March, 2000)

Place the barrel pipe (typically the same size as the skimmer arm) on a firm, smooth foundation of impervious soil. Do not use pervious material such as sand, gravel, or crushed stone as backfill around the pipe. Place the fill material around the pipe in 4-inch layers and manually compact it under and around the pipe to at least the same density as the adjacent embankment. Care must be taken not to raise the pipe from the firm contact with its foundation when compacting under the pipe haunches.

Construct the anti-seep collar(s) if shown on the plans.

Place a minimum depth of 2 feet of compacted backfill over the pipe before crossing it with construction equipment. In no case should the pipe conduit be installed by cutting a trench through the dam after the embankment is complete.

Assemble the skimmer following the manufacturer's instructions, or as designed.

Lay the assembled skimmer on the bottom of the basin with the flexible joint at the inlet of the barrel pipe. Attach the flexible joint to the barrel pipe and position the skimmer over the excavated pit or support. Be sure to attach a rope to the skimmer and anchor it to the side of the basin. This will be used to pull the skimmer to the side for maintenance.

Install outlet protection as specified.

Embankment

Scarify the foundation of the dam before placing fill.

Use fill from predetermined borrow areas. It should be clean, stable soil free of roots, woody vegetation, rocks and other debris; and must be wet enough to form a ball without crumbling, yet not so wet that water can be squeezed out.

Place the most permeable soil in the downstream toe and the least permeable in the center portion of the dam.

Place the fill material in 6” to 9” continuous uncompacted layers over the length of the dam. Fill should then be compacted to a 4” to 6” thick continuous layer (One way is by routing construction equipment over the dam so that each layer is traversed by at least 4 passes of the equipment).

Protect the spillway barrel with 2 feet of fill that has been compacted with hand tampers before traversing over the pipe with equipment.

Construct and compact the dam to an elevation 10% above the design height to allow for settling. The embankment should have a minimum 8 ft. top width and 2.5:1 side slopes, but the design may specify additional width and gentler side slopes.

Place a reference stake at the sediment clean out elevation shown on the plans (50% of design storage volume).

Emergency Spillway

Construct the spillway at the site located by a qualified design professional according to the plan design (in undisturbed soil around one end of the embankment, and so that any flow will return to the receiving channel without damaging the embankment).

Basin and Baffles

Ensure the basin has a length to width ratio of at least 2:1 or more as specified. Grade the basin so that the bottom is level front to back and side to side. Discharge water into the basin in a manner to prevent erosion. Use diversions with outlet protection to divert sediment-laden water to the upper end of the pool area to improve basin trap efficiency.

Install porous coir baffles as specified to ensure water does not flow under or around the baffles. (Figure SBN-2)

Figure SBN-2 Example of porous baffle made of 700 g/m^2 coir erosion blanket as viewed from the inlet. (from North Carolina Erosion and Sediment Control Planning and Design Manual.)

Install posts or saw horses across the width of the sediment trap.

Steel posts should be driven to a depth of 24 inches, spaced a maximum of 4 feet apart, and installed up the sides of the basin as well. The top of the fabric should be at least the height of the required storage volume elevation.

Install at least three rows of baffles between the inlet and outlet discharge point and at the locations specified in the plans.

When using posts, add a support wire or rope across the top to prevent sagging.

Wrap porous coir material (700 - 900 g/m^2) over a sawhorse or the top wire. Hammer rebar into the sawhorse legs for anchoring. Attach fabric to a rope and a support structure with zip ties, wire, or staples.

The bottom and sides of the fabric should be anchored in a trench or pinned with 8-inch erosion control matting staples.

Do not splice the fabric, but use a continuous piece across the basin.

Erosion Control

Minimize the size of all disturbed areas.

Divert runoff from undisturbed areas away from the basin.

Use temporary diversions to prevent surface water from running onto disturbed areas.

Divert sediment-laden water to the upper end of the sediment pool to improve trap effectiveness.

Vegetate and stabilize the embankment, the emergency spillway and all disturbed areas including the basin bottom and side slopes.

Safety

Because sediment basins that impound water are hazardous, the following precautions should be taken:

- Fence area and post warning signs if trespassing is likely.
- Ensure that the basin does not exceed design heights.

Construction Verification

Check the finished grades and configurations for all earthworks. Check elevations and dimensions of all pipes and structures.

Common Problems

Consult with registered design professional if any of the following occurs:

- Variations in topography on-site indicate sediment basin will not function as intended.
- Seepage is encountered during construction; it may be necessary to install drains.
- Design specifications for fill, pipe, seed variety or seeding dates cannot be met; substitutions may be required. Unapproved substitutions could lead to failure.

Maintenance

Inspect the sediment basin at least weekly and after each significant storm event (½ inch or greater).

Remove and properly dispose of sediment when it accumulates to ½ the design volume.

Remove trash and other debris from the skimmer, emergency spillway and pool area.

Periodically check the embankment, emergency spillway and outlet for erosion damage, piping, settling, seepage or slumping along the toe or around the barrel and repair immediately.

Remove the basin after the drainage area has been permanently stabilized, inspected and approved. Do so by draining any water, removing the sediment to a designated disposal area, smoothing the site to blend with the surrounding area; then stabilize.

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Straw Bale Sediment Trap (SST)

Practice Description

A straw bale sediment trap is a temporary catch basin consisting of a row or more of entrenched and anchored straw bales. The purpose is to intercept and detain small amounts of sediment to prevent sediment from leaving the construction site. This practice applies within disturbed areas with small drainage basins that are subject to sheet erosion or in minor swales.

Typical Components of the Practice

- Site Preparation
- Installation of Straw Bales
- Erosion Control
- Construction Verification

Construction

Prior to start of construction, straw bale sediment traps should be designed by a qualified professional. Plans and specifications should be referred to by field personnel throughout the construction process. The straw bale sediment trap should be built according to planned grades and dimensions.

Site Preparation

Determine exact location of underground utilities so that locations for digging or placement of stakes can be selected where utilities will not be damaged. Smooth the construction zone to provide a broad, nearly level area for the row of bales. The area should be wide enough to provide storage of runoff and sediment behind the straw bales.

To facilitate maintenance, provide good access for cleanout of sediment during maintenance period.

Installation of Straw Bale

Excavate a trench to the dimensions shown on the drawings. The trench should be long enough that the end bales are somewhat upslope of the sediment pool to ensure that excess flows go over the bales and not around the bales.

Place each bale end to end in the trench so the bindings are oriented around the sides rather than top and bottom.

Anchor the bales by driving two 36” long 2” x 2” hardwood stakes through each bale at least 18” into the ground. Drive the first stake toward the previously laid bale to force the bales together.

Wedge loose straw into any gaps between the bales to slow the movement of sediment-laden water.

Anchor the bales in place according to the details shown on the drawings. If specific details are not shown, backfill and compact the excavated soil against the bales to ground level on the downslope side and to 4” above ground level on the upslope side.

Erosion Control

Stabilize disturbed areas in accordance with vegetation plan. If no vegetation plan exists, consider planting and mulching as part of installation and select planting information from either the permanent Seeding or Temporary Seeding practice. Select mulching information from the Mulching practice.

Construction Verification

Check finished grades and dimensions of the straw bale sediment trap. Check materials for compliance with specifications.

Common Problems

Consult with registered design professional if the following occurs:

- Variations in topography on site indicate sediment trap will not function as intended; changes in plan may be needed.

- Design specifications for materials cannot be met; substitutions may be required. Unapproved substitutions could lead to failure.

Maintenance

Inspect straw bale barriers after each storm event and remove sediment deposits promptly after it has accumulated to ½ of the original capacity, taking care not to undermine the entrenched bales.

Inspect periodically for deterioration or damage from construction activities. Repair damaged barrier immediately.

After the contributing drainage area has been stabilized, remove all straw bales and sediment, bring the disturbed area to grade and stabilize it with vegetation or other materials shown in the design plan.

Straw bales may be recycled as mulch.

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