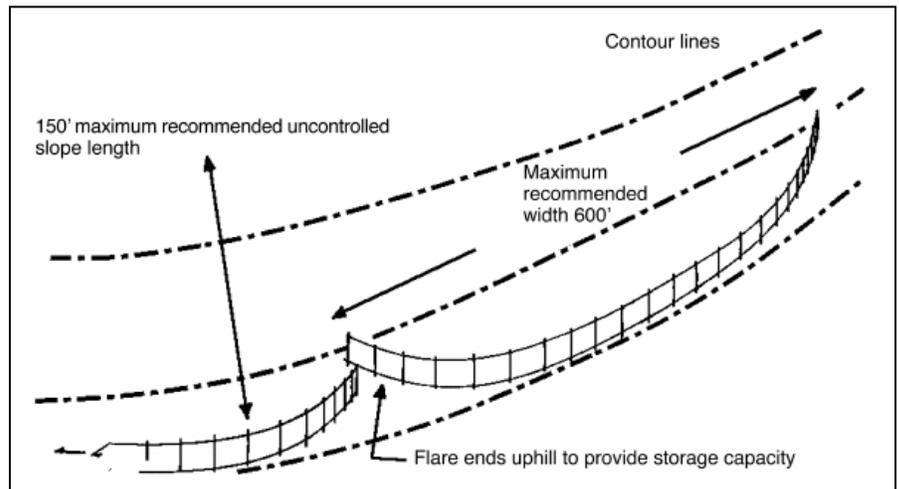


This handout is meant as a reminder and a guide for residential developers/contractors so that they can avoid fines and keep silt from entering our area's ponds, lakes and rivers. It explains the basics of silt fence planning, installation and maintenance.

## PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

- A. Silt fences must be installed to protect adjacent properties and public streets from sediment deposits.
- B. Silt fences should not be used in areas of concentrated flow, such as ditches; in those cases use soil berms, silt dikes, straw waddles and excelsior logs, or rock check dams.
- C. Pond formation behind the silt fence should be expected and planned for by providing sufficient storage areas and overflow outlets.
- D. Tie the ends of a silt fence into the landscape to prevent flow around the end of the fence.
- E. A crescent shape performs better than a silt fence installed in a straight line.
- F. Silt fences are not terraces; they cannot be put in sequence to extend the slope length allowable
- G. Provide stabilized outlets to protect the fence system and release storm flows that exceed the design storm.
- H. Plan deposition areas (storage pools in front of the fence) at accessible points to facilitate routine cleanout and maintenance.
- I. Silt fences should be installed on the contour of the site—not up or down a hill.
- J. Ensure that the drainage area is no greater than 1/4 acre per 100 feet of fence.
- K. By design, ensure that the depth of water trapped by the fence does not exceed 2 feet at any point along the fence.



*Mandated by congress under the Clean Water Act, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Program is a comprehensive national program for addressing polluted stormwater runoff. Minnesota regulates the disposal of stormwater through State Disposal System (SDS) permits. The MPCA issues combined NPDES/SDS permits for construction sites between one and five acres.*



# Silt Fences

**Building Inspections Department**

208 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue -1st Floor, Faribault MN 55021

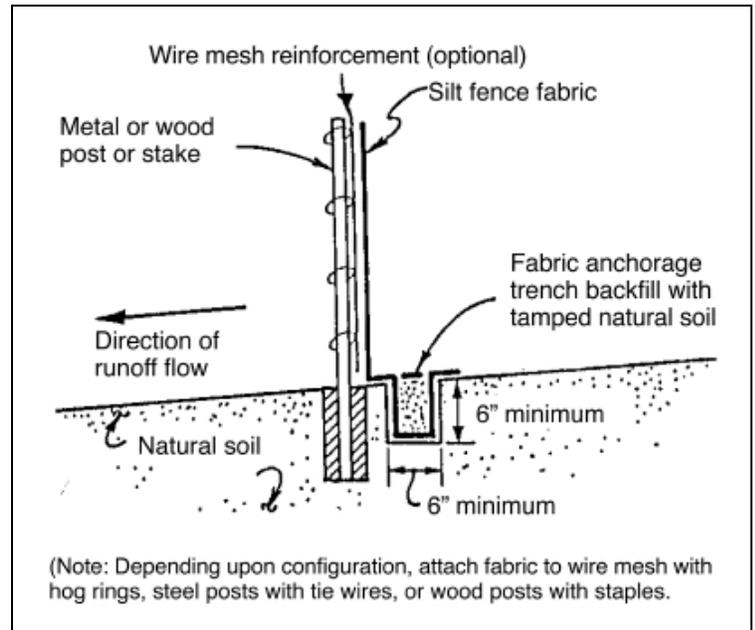
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*Furthermore, the City of Faribault requires erosion control on all construction sites. The property owner and/or permit holder is responsible for complying with the requirements listed on the erosion control document which is part of the building permit application.*

## INSTALLATION

- A. An approved geotextile should be attached to the upstream side of the post and any backing.
- B. Construct the silt fence from a continuous roll of geotextile if possible. When joints are necessary, it is preferred that the material be overlapped to the next post.
- C. The bottom edge of the geotextile should be buried at least 6 inches deep in a vertical slot or trench, with the soil pressed firmly against the embedded geotextile. (Machine-slice methods are also acceptable.)
- D. Posts should be either 1.5-inch hardwood with a minimum length of 4 ft or 1.25 lb/linear ft steel with a minimum length of 5 ft.
- E. Posts should be set in the ground at least 1.5 ft deep.
- F. Post spacing depends on the site conditions, but 6-8 ft on center is a standard maximum.
- G. Each post should be securely fastened to the geotextile and net backing by ties or staples suitable for such purpose.
- H. Never attach silt fence to trees.



## MAINTENANCE

- A. Inspect silt fences at least once a week and after each 1/2-inch rainfall within 24 hours. Make any required repairs immediately.
- B. Should the fabric of a silt fence collapse, tear, decompose or otherwise become ineffective, replace it within 24 hours of discovery.
- C. Remove silt deposits once they reach one-third the height of the silt fence to provide adequate storage volume for the next rain and to reduce pressure on the fence.
- D. Remove all fencing materials and unstable sediment deposits and bring the area to grade and stabilize it after the contributing drainage area has been properly stabilized.

## ROADWAY DEPOSITS



# Silt Fences

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- A. A temporary construction entrance should be constructed out of rock to clean vehicles' tires before they reach the roadway.
- B. All materials tracked or otherwise deposited on roadways shall be cleaned at least daily.
- C. All material, which is deposited on adjacent roadways as a result of a precipitation event, shall be removed, including the cleaning of storm sewers and drainage ditches, within 24 hours.

For more information visit: [www.pca.state.mn.us/water/stormwater/stormwater-c.html](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/stormwater/stormwater-c.html)