

Maine Erosion and Sedimentation Control Law

Did you know that the number one pollutant in Maine's rivers, streams, brooks, ponds and wetlands is soil from nearby eroding sites?

Under this law, landowners are required to repair their eroding areas to prevent any soil loss and sediment discharge into a nearby natural resource.

The full text of the Maine Erosion and Sediment Control Law (Title 38 M.R.S.A. Section 420-C) may be seen at:
<http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/docstand/stormwater/stormstat.pdf>

Do you Need Help?

Assistance and guidance on how erosion may be prevented or stopped may be obtained from:

- Your nearest office of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. Or call (207) 287-3901;
- Your county's Soil and Water Conservation District;
- Your Lake Watershed Association; and
- Contractors certified by DEP in erosion and sediment control practices (list available from the DEP).

Comply with the Maine Erosion and Sediment Control Law

Stabilize your bare soils

Protect Maine's water for future enjoyment

IT'S THE LAW !

Department of
Environmental
Protection
Deplw0652-2004



What is Soil Erosion?

Every time mineral soil is exposed, it is subject to movement from wind and rain erosion.

Because most runoff reaches a stream, river, lake or coastal water, eroded soils and other pollutants can get transported and deposited into these resources.

The visible impacts from eroded soils include rills, gullies, and muddy water.

The invisible impact from eroded soils is the change or loss of habitat used by fish or other creatures, impaired recreational opportunities and fouling of a drinking water source.

A 2003 study showed that

- Almost half (43%) of all construction sites did not use erosion or sedimentation control measures,
- And more than half (60%) of the chronic erosion problems are from public and private roads.



Erosion from Construction

In 1997, the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Law came into effect. It was designed to prevent Maine's waterbodies from further degradation due to soil erosion.

Since July 1997, construction projects of any size must have:

- Sediment control measures, such as silt fence or hay bales, placed at the down gradient side of the construction site before work begins.
- Erosion control measures, such as mulch and vegetation, placed as soon as feasible to permanently stabilize the site when construction is completed.

Preventing the loss of soil from a construction site saves money that would otherwise be needed to rework eroded areas and replace lost soil. It also prevents soil from impacting the quality of our water resources.



Chronic Erosion

As of **July 1, 2005**, an important change will occur in the law. From that time on, all existing chronic erosion problems in watersheds most-at-risk (as defined in the DEP rules) will be regulated.

See: www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rcn/apa/06/096/096c502.doc.

On **July 1, 2010**, the law will apply to all organized areas in the state of Maine and landowners will have to fix their erosion problems.

Examples of chronic erosion problems include:

- Camp roads that wash out every spring;
- Culverts that are washing out around their inlets and outlets;
- Ditches and embankments that are not stabilized with vegetation or riprap and show major rills and gullies; and
- Washouts in areas downgradient from any point of concentrated stormwater runoff.

