

Chapter 3 - OVERVIEW OF EROSION, SEDIMENT, AND STORMWATER CONTROL PRACTICES (BMPS)

SAND FENCE

A sand fence is a low fence of wooden slats erected perpendicular to the prevailing wind. The fence traps blowing sand by reducing the wind velocity at the ground surface.

Sand fences are used primarily to build frontal ocean dunes to help prevent flooding and erosion from wave overwash, but they may also serve to prevent sand from blowing onto roads or other off-site areas.

Sand fences are usually made commercially of light wooden slats wired together with spaces between the slats. The fences are erected 2 to 4 feet high in parallel rows spaced 20 to 40 feet apart over the area to be protected. Fences are supported by wooden posts.

When sand fences are approximately two-thirds full, another series of fences is erected. In this manner, dunes can be built 2 to 6 feet high or more during a single season. When the dune has reached the approximate height of other mature dunes or when the building process slows significantly, stabilize with appropriate vegetation.

When sand fences are used to protect off-site areas from blowing sand, maintain them until the sand source has been stabilized.



Sand fence captures blowing sand to rebuild frontal dune. Natural or planted vegetation helps stabilize the dune.