

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

SEDIMENT BASIN

Sediment basins are usually constructed by building a low earthen dam across a drainageway to form a temporary sediment storage pool. A properly designed spillway outlet with adequate freeboard is essential. The embankment should be well compacted and vegetated. Sediment basins may also be formed by excavation, but these are usually more costly. A combination embankment/excavated basin is often utilized.

Basins are located to capture sediment from as much of the disturbed area of the site as possible and should be installed before clearing and grading begin. Ease of basin cleanout and spoil disposal should be considered in site selection.

To improve trap efficiency, the basin should have the maximum surface area possible, and sediment should enter the basin as far from the outlet as possible.

Dams should not be constructed in live streams or where failure might cause loss of life or serious property damage.



Sediment basin is strategically located to trap sediment near the outlet of a work site. Sediment trap provides settling pool for a small drainage area. Gravel allows dewatering and a stable outlet.