

What Can I Do?



LEAVE IT GREEN! Practice erosion control by keeping the soil covered with vegetation, which will not allow the soil to erode easily. Minimize amount of disturbance at any given time. Plan your grading around the growing season for establishing vegetative cover.

DEVELOP A PLAN! If the site has features such as steep slopes, flowing streams, wetlands, springs, highly erodible soils, etc. specific care and planning must be taken to control erosion. Without site specific plans, pollution may occur. Assistance is available from private consultants. Contact the Adams County Conservation District for a list of professionals.

Why Should I Care?

Established in 1937, the **PA Clean Streams Law** as amended defines sediment as a pollutant. Sediment is the number one pollutant by volume to the waters of the Commonwealth. The soil particles contained in sediment also carry and retain chemical pollutants such as herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers. Accelerated sedimentation that flows into the waters of the Commonwealth can:

- Raise the level of the streams, lakes, other waters and increase flooding.
- Decrease oxygen in the water, suffocating fish and other aquatic life.
- Deposit sediment over the breeding beds (eggs) of aquatic life.
- Increase filtering costs of public water supply.
- Ruin the scenic and recreational values of the waters.



For More Information

Adams County Conservation District

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Know what's below.
Call before you dig.



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Adams County Conservation District **EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL PROGRAM**



Conserving Our Natural Resources

Promote Best Management Practices that will preserve and sustain quality habitats for plants, wildlife, and people through the protection of our land and water resources.

State Regulations

In an attempt to control sediment pollution, The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) adopted strict rules and regulations concerning erosion and sedimentation control in 1972. The rules and regulation, known as PA CODE TITLE 25 CHAPTER 102 EROSION CONTROL states “...any landowner ...engaged in earthmoving activities shall develop, implement and maintain erosion and sedimentation control measures which effectively minimize accelerated erosion and sedimentation.”

Specific site conditions determine which program or programs govern each individual earthmoving activity. Failure to follow the rules and regulations of Chapter 102 and the PA Clean Streams Law carries strict penalties ranging up to \$10,000 per day per violation.



Chapter 102 Erosion and Sediment (E&S) Control

The purpose of this program is to minimize accelerated erosion from earthmoving activities by establishing a plan for erosion and sediment control within a particular project. An Erosion and Sediment Control Plan is required for most earthmoving activities. At a minimum it should contain provisions to:

- Limit the amount of grading.
- Minimize the length of time the earth is exposed.
- Trap any sediment on the site.

The District is responsible for reviewing and approving E&S Plans, performing routine site inspections, conducting educational workshops, investigating complaints, and facilitating agricultural conservation plan development.



NPDES Permit Program

While Erosion and Sediment controls are required for any and most earth moving activities, some sites will require a federal National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit in conjunction with an E&S plan. This program requires most earthmoving activity disturbing more one (1) acre over the life of the project to have a NPDES permit.

Exceptions:

- Timber harvesting activities will require a permit if they disturb 25 acres or more of land for haul roads, skid trails, and landing areas.
- Road maintenance activities disturbing 25 acres or more of land will require a permit.
- Agricultural plowing or tilling activities are exempt from permit requirements, but are still required to develop a conservation plan which specifies the implementation and maintenance of best management practices (BMP's).

The District will receive, review, and acknowledge portions of the permit on behalf of DEP.



The Conservation District's Role



The majority of the Conservation District's efforts are centered towards the conservation of water and soil resources.

The District administers the E&S program through a signed delegation agreement with DEP. The E&S program targets earthmoving activities. An earth moving activity is any project, large or small, which involves removing vegetation and exposing the bare soil to the forces of nature. ***Sediment is the number one pollutant by volume to the waters of Pennsylvania.***

As Adams County continues to experience overall growth, it becomes increasingly important to make sure that resources are protected according to the regulations. Due to intensifying development pressure and greater awareness for environmental protection, the E&S program continues to be one of the District's most demanding and valuable programs.

