



EROSION PREVENTION & SEDIMENT CONTROL

Overview

The City of Albany’s Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control (EPSC) program has been established as a part of the City’s comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan. This plan addresses federal water quality mandates and helps set local policies and procedures to protect the quality of our waterways.

The EPSC program is designed to protect local waterways and the City’s stormwater system from pollution generated by ground disturbing activities.



INTENT OF THE PROGRAM

All land-disturbing activities, whether or not requiring a permit, shall be undertaken in a manner to prevent or minimize to the greatest extent practicable soil erosion and the deposition or introduction of sediments upon or into rights of way, wetlands, drainage ways, the stormwater system, receiving waters, or areas that include or contribute directly to the Waters of the State.



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

DO I NEED AN EPSC PERMIT?

The EPSC program is administered through a permit process. However, not all ground disturbing activities require a permit.



An erosion prevention and sediment control (EPSC) permit is needed for land-disturbing activities affecting an area of two thousand square feet or greater, cumulatively.

However, you don’t need an EPSC permit if your land-disturbing activities are for:

- Replacement or re-establishment of an existing lawn on a single lot, not exceeding 10,000 square feet (about a quarter of an acre), or
- Agricultural activities. These include private or commercial activities for home gardening, farming, and nursery stock, among others.

HOW LONG DOES THE EPSC PERMIT LAST?

EPSC permits are valid for a period of one year, or until land disturbing activities are completed and the site is permanently stabilized. Extensions will be available, if needed, with a written application and fee.



NEW CONSTRUCTION

An EPSC permit must be obtained prior to or in conjunction with the issuance of new construction permits. At the conclusion of work, a Certificate of Occupancy will not be issued until the site has been permanently stabilized and the EPSC permit has been closed

WHAT IS A SENSITIVE AREA?

Sensitive areas include steep slopes (those greater than 10 percent), wetlands, and areas that include or contribute directly to Waters of the State.



WATERS OF THE STATE

... means any lakes, bays, ponds, impounding reservoirs, springs, wells, rivers, streams, creeks, estuaries, marshes, inlets, canals, the Pacific Ocean within the territorial limits of the State of Oregon and all other bodies of surface or underground waters, natural or artificial, inland or coastal, fresh or salt, public or private (except those private waters that do not combine or effect a junction with natural surface or underground waters), which are wholly or partially within or bordering the State or within its jurisdiction.



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Best Management Practices, called BMPs, are a collection of practices accepted by the City of Albany which are designed to meet the intent of the EPSC program. Some good BMPs include the following:

Install EPSC measures before beginning land disturbing activities.

Preserve as much undisturbed area as possible.

Establish perimeter controls.

Provide construction entrances. Design them to capture soils and prevent tracking out of the work zone.

Prevent off-site surface water from entering upon the work zone.

Protect exposed surfaces. Place straw, wood chips, or slash over exposed soils to protect them from rainwater impact.

----- FAQs -----

Can I continue work after installing my erosion control measures?

No. All initial erosion prevention and sediment control measures must be *installed* before your inspector arrives for the initial inspection. Corrections from the initial inspection must be performed before continuing other permitted land disturbing activities.

It is the City's goal to minimize delays to you. Inspections will be performed by the end of the next business day from the date of the request.

When can EPSC measures be removed?

EPSC measures are required to remain in place until permanent ground stabilization is established. During the landscape process, it is acceptable to remove and replace EPSC measures, like sediment fence, as necessary to facilitate work. However, care must be taken to ensure continued protection at all times.

I've been hired to do landscaping work on a property. The work requires an EPSC permit. Can I get the permit?

No. EPSC permits are must be obtained by the owner of the property. Permits are not transferable, except with a change in ownership of the property. The owner of the property may have contractors and sub-contractors performing work under the authority of the permit. However, the property owner, as permit holder, is ultimately responsible for site conditions and maintenance of BMPs until the permit is closed.

