

# FACTSHEET

# 03

## Sediment Fencing

**THE MOST EFFICIENT AND WIDELY ACCEPTED SEDIMENT BARRIER FOR CONSTRUCTION SITES IS A SPECIALLY MANUFACTURED GEOTEXTILE SEDIMENT FENCE. SEDIMENT FENCES ACT LIKE DAMS - TRAPPING THE SEDIMENT WHILE ALLOWING WATER TO LEAVE THE SITE. THEY ARE EFFECTIVE IN RETAINING SUSPENDED SOLIDS COARSER THAN 0.02 MM.**

They are simple to construct, relatively inexpensive and easily moved as development proceeds.

When using a sediment fence, keep in mind that it will be effective within the following parameters:

- ✓ It is generally not designed to filter concentrated flows and therefore needs to be placed following the contours whenever possible.
- ✓ It should last for up to six months but requires regular

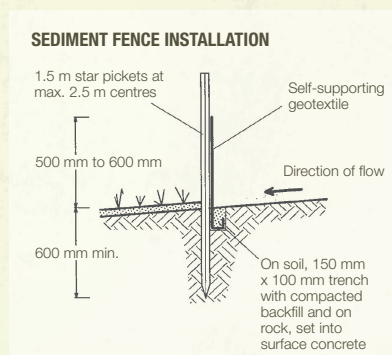
maintenance and weekly checks are needed. The performance of a sediment fence diminishes considerably when crushed by delivery of building materials or after rain when sediment has built up behind it. It must remain vertical and keyed into the soil.

- ✓ Where the sediment fence is not installed correctly water will inevitably flow through the point of least resistance. Damaged fences must be repaired promptly.
- ✓ Sediment fences need to be trenched in at least 150 mm and buried so the water flows through and not underneath.
- ✓ Soil on both sides of the fence must be compacted to avoid seepage under the barrier.

On a typical residential building block (approx. 700sq.m), a sediment fence should work well providing it is situated on the low side of the block. If there needs to be a break in the fence for any reason (say, an access point) a contour bank/

diversion bank or bund needs to be constructed to direct water back to the fence. The sediment fence must have uphill returns at either end to prevent sediment flowing around it.

**+ Advantages.** It is a simple strategy that is easily installed, shifted or removed. Sediment fences work well and, if maintained, will last for the duration of the construction stage.



## CONSTRUCTION NOTES

1. Construct sediment fences as close as possible to follow the contours of the site.
2. Drive 1.5 metre long posts into ground, maximum 3 metres apart.
3. Staple to 40 mm square hardwood posts or wire tied to steel posts.
4. Dig a 150 mm deep trench along the up-slope line of the fence for the bottom of the fabric to be entrenched.
5. Backfill trench over base of fabric and compact on both sides.

