

STD & SPEC. 3.05 SILT FENCE



Practice Description

A temporary sediment barrier consisting of a synthetic filter fabric stretched across and attached to supporting posts and entrenched, used to intercept and detain small amounts of sediment from disturbed areas during construction operations in order to prevent sediment from leaving the site, and to decrease the velocity of sheet flows and low-to-moderate level channel flows.

Conditions Where Practice Applies

1. Below disturbed areas where erosion would occur in the form of sheet and rill erosion.
2. Where the size of the drainage area is no more than one quarter acre per 100 feet of silt fence length; the maximum slope length behind the barrier is 100 feet; and the maximum gradient behind the barrier is 50 percent (2:1).
3. In minor swales or ditch lines where the maximum contributing drainage area is no greater than 1 acre and flow is no greater than 1 cfs.
4. Silt fence will not be used in areas where rock or some other hard surface prevents the full and uniform depth anchoring of the barrier.

Construction Specifications

1. Synthetic filter fabric shall be a pervious sheet of propylene, nylon, polyester or ethylene yarn and shall be certified by the manufacturer or supplier as conforming to the requirements noted in Table 3.05-B.

**TABLE 3.05-B
PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF
FILTER FABRIC IN SILT FENCE**

<u>Physical Property</u>	<u>Test</u>	<u>Requirements</u>
Filtering Efficiency	ASTM 5141	75% (minimum)
Tensile Strength at 20% (max.) Elongation*	VTM-52	Extra Strength- 50 lbs./linear inch (minimum) Standard Strength- 30 lbs./linear inch (minimum)
Flow Rate	ASTM 5141	0.2 gal./sq. ft./min. (minimum)
Ultraviolet Radiation	ASTM-G-26	90% (minimum)

*Requirements reduced by 50% after six months of installation.

Source: VHTRC

2. Synthetic filter fabric shall contain ultraviolet ray inhibitors and stabilizers to provide a minimum of six months of expected usable construction life at a temperature range of 0° F to 120° F.
3. If wooden stakes are utilized for silt fence construction, they must have a diameter of 2 inches when oak is used and 4 inches when pine is used. Wooden stakes must have a minimum length of 5 feet.
4. If steel posts (standard "U" or "T" section) are utilized for silt fence construction, they must have a minimum weight of 1.33 pounds per linear foot and shall have a minimum length of 5 feet.
5. Wire fence reinforcement for silt fences using standard-strength filter cloth shall be a minimum of 14 gauge and shall have a maximum mesh spacing of 6 inches.

Installation

1. The height of a silt fence shall be a minimum of 16 inches above the original ground surface and shall not exceed 34 inches above ground elevation.

2. The filter fabric shall be purchased in a continuous roll cut to the length of the barrier to avoid the use of joints. When joints are unavoidable, filter cloth shall be spliced together only at a support post, with a minimum 6-inch overlap, and securely sealed.
3. A trench shall be excavated approximately 4-inches wide and 4-inches deep on the upslope side of the proposed location of the measure.
4. When wire support is used, standard-strength filter cloth may be used. Posts for this type of installation shall be placed a maximum of 10-feet apart (see Plate 3.05-1).

The wire mesh fence must be fastened securely to the upslope side of the posts using heavy duty wire staples at least one inch long, tie wires or hog rings. The wire shall extend into the trench a minimum of two inches and shall not extend more than 34 inches above the original ground surface. The standard-strength fabric shall be stapled or wired to the wire fence, and 8 inches of the fabric shall be extended into the trench. The fabric shall not be stapled to existing trees.

5. When wire support is not used, extra-strength filter cloth shall be used. Posts for this type of fabric shall be placed a maximum of 6-feet apart (see Plate 3.05-2).

The filter fabric shall be fastened securely to the upslope side of the posts using one inch long (minimum) heavy-duty wire staples or tie wires and eight inches of the fabric shall be extended into the trench. The fabric shall not be stapled to existing trees. This method of installation has been found to be more commonplace than #4.

6. If a silt fence is to be constructed across a ditch line or swale, the measure must be of sufficient length to eliminate endflow, and the plan configuration shall resemble an arc or horseshoe with the ends oriented upslope (see Plate 3.05-2). Extra-strength filter fabric shall be used for this application with a maximum 3-foot spacing of posts.

All other installation requirements noted in #5 apply.

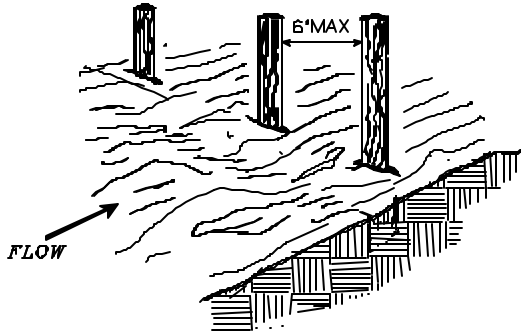
7. The 4-inch by 4-inch trench shall be backfilled and the soil compacted over the filter fabric.
8. Silt fences shall be removed when they have served their useful purpose, but not before the upslope area has been permanently stabilized.

Maintenance

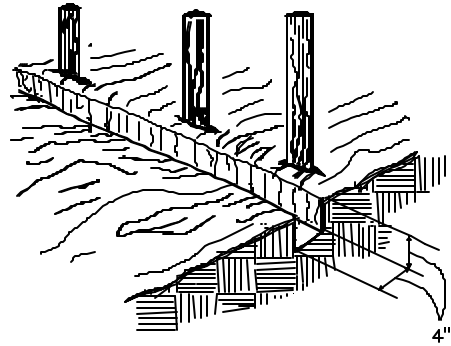
1. Silt fences shall be inspected immediately after rainfall and at least daily during prolonged rainfall. Any required repairs shall be made immediately.
2. Close attention shall be paid to the repair of damaged silt fence resulting from end runs and undercutting.

CONSTRUCTION OF A SILT FENCE (WITHOUT WIRE SUPPORT)

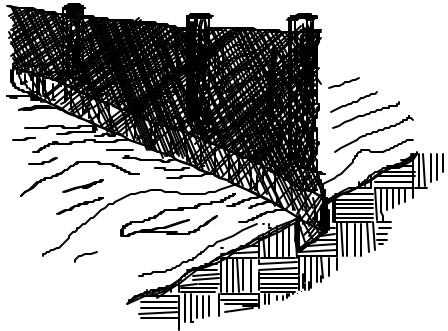
1. SET THE STAKES.



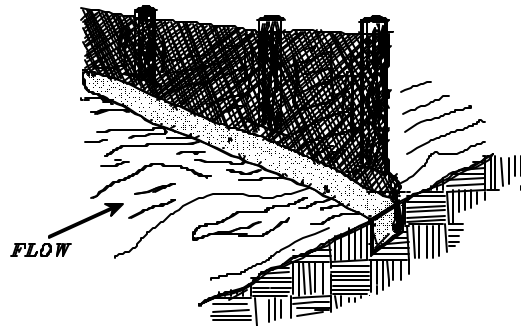
2. EXCAVATE A 4" X 4" TRENCH UPSLOPE ALONG THE LINE OF STAKES.



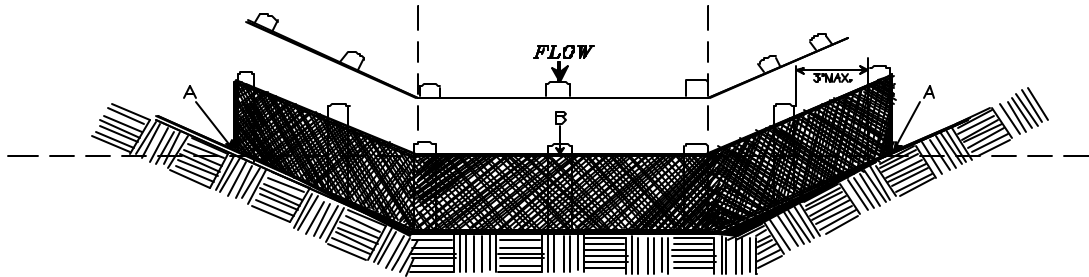
3. STAPLE FILTER MATERIAL TO STAKES AND EXTEND IT INTO THE TRENCH.



4. BACKFILL AND COMPACT THE EXCAVATED SOIL.



SHEET FLOW INSTALLATION
(PERSPECTIVE VIEW)



POINTS A SHOULD BE HIGHER THAN POINT B.
DRAINAGEWAY INSTALLATION
(FRONT ELEVATION)

SOURCE: Adapted from Installation of Straw and Fabric Filter Barriers for Sediment Control, VA. DSWC
Sherwood and Wyant

PLATE. 3.05-2