Hamilton County SWCD
Backyard Conservation

Installation of Erosion Control Blankets

What are Erosion Control Blankets?

Adding straw mulch over an area that has been graded and seeded helps promote good grass growth. The mulch prevents soil erosion, holds moisture loss and provides shade for young seedlings. Loose mulch does poorly on sloping sites or where water flows. These conditions cause the loose mulch to be displaced. Erosion control blankets are mats made of straw, coconut fiber or wood excelsior. Netting made from cotton, jute or plastic holds the blankets together. Pins made from steel or wood are used to hold the blankets firmly in place. Erosion control blankets are used with tip sheets for land grading and stabilizing sloping sites.

Erosion Control Blanket

Benefits of Using an Erosion Control Blanket:

- Prevents soil erosion during the establishment period for plants
- Eliminates the need to fix gullies during the establishment period
- Provides moisture retention
- Provides a uniform mulch layer
- Reduces weed pressures

Typical Metal Staple

Considerations:

- Before beginning any project, check homeowner association covenants, as well as local, county, and state ordinances. Do not work in a drainage, utility, or other easement without the proper permits. Also, call the Indiana Underground Plant Protection Service (1-800-382-5544) to identify buried utilities.
- There are many different types and weights of erosion control blankets. Steeper slopes and higher water flows require heavier blankets.
- Most blankets are biodegradable. Some blankets are made to last 24 months where others 6 months. Select a blanket that will last long enough to protect the soil until the vegetation is well established.
- Blankets must be installed close to the ground with minimal bumps or space beneath them.
- Water should flow on top of the blanket. Like shingles, an upper blanket should overlap a lower blanket to prevent water flowing under the blanket. See reverse side for installation instructions
- The blankets are held in place with metal staples or stakes. Steeper slopes and flowing water require more aggressive staking. Follow the manufactures directions on placement of the staples or stakes and what kind to use.
- Retailers for erosion control, nurseries and landscaping suppliers are the best sources for materials and additional advice.

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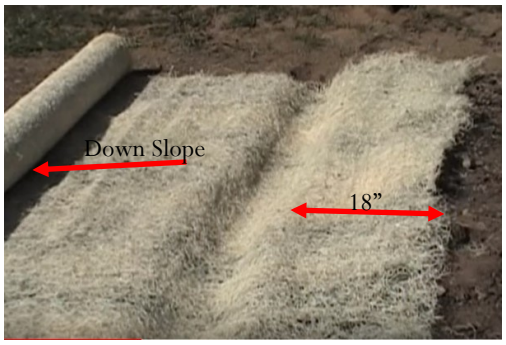
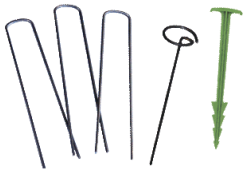
Installation

1) Prepare the ground by leveling, adding amendments (as necessary- based on soil test results) and seeding



2) Dig a trench 6” wide and 6” deep as long as the fabric width at the top of the slope or above eroded/bare area– place the soil upslope of the trench into a pile to be reused

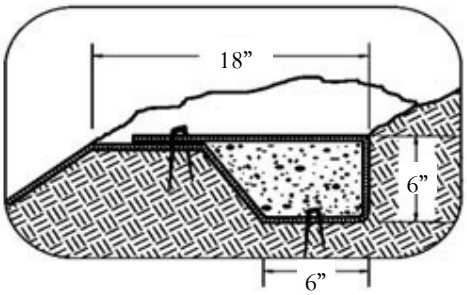
3) Position blanket downslope of the trench and pull out 18” of blanket past the trench



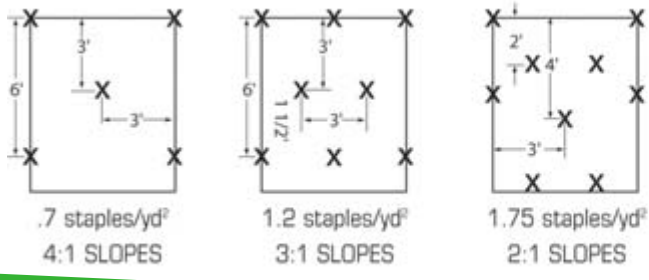
4) Staple the blanket into the trench at edges and stagger every 8”

5) Backfill, lightly compact, seed and add soil amendments (as necessary)

6) Fold the 18” blanket flap over the trench and staple it past the trench onto the other layer of blanket



7) Roll blanket down slope and secure with staples in pattern shown



8) If multiple blankets are used, overlap 4” and secure along edges