

### GESC Considerations for Residential Landscaping Activities

**Fact Sheets** have been prepared for minor one-time, short duration construction activities **under an acre** to control the transport of sediment and waste materials without a formal permit. The goal is to provide time-tested, accepted procedures that minimize the potential for release of pollutants during the performance of these short-term, 'low risk' minor construction activities. The Grading Erosion and Sediment Control (GESC) Program requires the installation and maintenance of best management practices (BMPs) to promote environmentally-sound construction practices. If your project has components that are more complicated than anticipated here, contact SEMSWA at 303-858-8844 for permitting instructions.



### General Practices

- Schedule construction work for dry weather. Optimum construction is October-March timeframe, avoiding Spring rains and monsoon events.
- Identify all storm drains, drainage swales and creeks located near the construction site and make sure the landscape contractor is aware of their locations to prevent pollutants from entering them.
- If applicable, make sure portable toilets for workers are in good working order. Check frequently for leaks, service regularly, and ensure that they are adequately anchored so as to prevent them from tipping over.
- Discuss scope of BMPs applicable to the project with the SEMSWA GESC staff (303-858-8844) prior to project kickoff. The more complicated the access and the BMPs required for protection of water quality, the greater the chance a permit will be required.
- Designate one area for vehicle parking, equipment/vehicle refueling, and routine maintenance. The designated area should be well away from gutters, storm drains, and creeks. Minimize area to be disturbed.
- Inspect equipment and vehicles frequently for leaks and repair as necessary; perform major equipment/vehicle repairs off-site. Washing of equipment and machinery is not allowed.
- Throughout the workday, especially when precipitation (rain or snow) is in the forecast, sweep and remove tracked and incidental materials from surfaces, like road, sidewalks, gutters, that drain to storm drain inlets, creeks, channels, etc.
- Streets in the immediate vicinity of your construction area must be completely swept throughout, at the end of the work day, and immediately following completion of construction operations. All affected street areas should be small enough in size to be hand-broomed efficiently.
- When stockpiling is necessary, if it is outside of street ROW, permits in accordance with local jurisdiction requirements will be required. If stockpiling is in the street ROW, follow the Street Cut Right-of-Way Use Permit requirements. City Code allows 72 hours to remove materials.
- Contain stockpiled materials on paved surfaces, install perimeter controls around entire material pile, and place conduit in the flow line.
- Construction areas left open to collect rain/irrigation water will not be pumped/drained directly into a gutter flow line or waterway. The water needs to be discharged to a vegetated buffer area to infiltrate.

### DO

Ask the contractor for a list of items they will be bringing on site for landscape work, and how they will control, contain and dispose of the materials not used.

Instruct the contractor to deposit the landscaping materials in your driveway and not in the flow line/gutter of the street. If the materials must be stockpiled in the street, put an appropriate length of pipe under the pile to allow for gutter flow during a rain event. The flow line discharge must be visibly clear and not contain floating or solid material.

Have contractor install perimeter controls around any stockpiles prior to work commencing. Maintain controls as needed. Remove when re-vegetation done.

Oversee contractor to ensure that correct procedures are followed so that materials are not transported offsite. During the workday, and especially if rain is forecast, sweep and remove materials from surfaces that drain to the street, as well as any materials tracked on to the street.

### DO NOT

DO NOT allow the contractor to clean or conduct maintenance on equipment on or near the construction site, or near a storm drain or other conveyance feature.

DO NOT allow contractor to route any runoff from the construction site so that it causes erosion outside of your controlled construction area.

DO NOT let contractor hose down to clean up areas with remaining residual landscape materials; use dry sweeping methods and dispose properly in trash.

DO NOT let excess waste materials accumulate at or around the construction site area.

DO NOT allow any sediment, materials, or fluids to leave the site at any time.