



Construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Narrative for Small Residential Projects

This narrative is for single-family residential projects that create and/or replace less than 5,000 square feet of hard surfaces and create less than one acre of disturbance for the project. Projects that meet this threshold can submit this narrative instead of a formal Construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

Contact your Site Development Inspector for any questions or assistance regarding the requirements of the 13 elements below. Additional information regarding the 13 elements can be found in Volume II of the Pierce County Stormwater and Site Development Manual in the link below:

<https://www.piercecountywa.gov/2969/Stormwater-Site-Development-Manual>

1. Preserve Vegetation/Mark clearing limits:

Before you begin construction, mark the clearing limits of the area that is to be disturbed in accordance with your approved plans. Make sure to clearly mark trees to remain, septic drainfield areas or any critical areas (e.g. wetlands, streams, landslide hazard areas and buffers) to protect them from being disturbed during construction. Retain the duff layer, native topsoil, and natural vegetation in an undisturbed state as much as possible.

2. Establish construction access:

Typically, restricting construction traffic to an already impermeable concrete or asphalt paved driveway is acceptable to meet this element. For sites where there is no existing driveway install a rock construction entrance per the approved site development plans. It is important to make sure you are not tracking sediment and debris offsite during construction.

3. Control flow rates:

Ensure that silt-laden (dirty) water is not leaving the project area and that you are not increasing the amount of water that would typically leave the project site.

4. Install sediment controls:

Install erosion control measures (e.g. silt fence and inlet protection) per the standard details. Silt fence shall be located along the low sides of the project area per the approved plan in order to prevent sediment and dirty stormwater from leaving the project area. Additional sediment controls may be required by your Site Development Inspector.

5. Stabilize soils:

Soils cannot be exposed and unworked for longer than 7 days during the dry season (May 1–September 30) or 2 days in the wet season (October 1–April 30). Soils can be stabilized several ways, including temporary or permanent seeding, mulching, net and blankets, plastic coverings, sodding, topsoiling/composting, and beauty bark.

6. Protect slopes:

Construct cut and fill slopes so that erosion is prevented. Divert stormwater or groundwater away from slopes and disturbed areas with swales, interceptor dikes, and/or pipes. Consult a contractor or engineer to ensure that you are adequately protecting those areas and are not potentially creating issues for yourself or adjacent property owners.

7. Protect drain inlets:

Keep dirty stormwater from entering nearby catch basins and drainages. Protect stormwater inlets (e.g. catch basins, yard drains, culverts, etc.) by installing catch basin inserts, use of sandbags or straw wattles.

8. Stabilize channels and outlets:

Stabilize all temporary drainages to prevent erosion. This can be done by using armoring materials (e.g. grass and riprap) adequate to prevent erosion of outlets, slopes, adjacent stream banks, and downstream reaches at the outlets of all conveyance systems.

9. Control pollutants:

Handle and dispose of all pollutants so they do not contaminate stormwater. For small projects, controlling pollutants is primarily related to concrete handling. Assure that washout of concrete trucks is performed in designated concrete washout areas only. Do not wash out concrete truck drums or concrete handling equipment onto the ground, or into storm drains, open ditches, streets, or streams. Concrete tools shall be washed in formed areas awaiting concrete or containers.

10. Control dewatering:

Foundation, vault, and trench dewatering water shall be treated like other stormwater onsite and can be directed to your sediment control devices, such as silt fence or straw wattles.

11. Maintain Best Management Practices (BMPs):

Ensure that BMPs (e.g. silt fence, construction entrance, and inlet protection) are functioning properly throughout the duration of construction. For example, silt fence should be upright and should not have sediment build up greater than one third of the height of the fence. Make sure you are not tracking sediment and debris offsite onto adjacent roads.

Temporary erosion and sediment control BMPs shall be removed within 30 days after the site is stabilized or after they are no longer needed.

12. Manage the project:

Think about what time of year construction is anticipated to occur and if any adjustments are needed to accommodate weather patterns. Clearing, grading, and soil disturbing should be avoided or limited from October 1st through April 30th if possible. Install additional items to prevent stormwater pollution as necessary.

13. Protect Permanent Low Impact Development (LID) Best Management Practices

If there is an existing or proposed LID facility (e.g. rain garden, permeable pavement, infiltration trench) where construction activities will occur, it is important to protect them from being damaged or inundated with sediment during construction. No construction traffic shall be directed over the existing or proposed facility.