The most common source of pollution associated with construction activities is **sedimentation** caused by erosion and the transport of sediments.

Failure to maintain adequate erosion and sediment controls (ESC's) at construction sites often results in sediment discharges into the storm drain system. In the Town of Arlington all storm drains flow directly into lakes, streams and/or wetlands and eventually into the Mystic River or Charles River.

Special attention and consideration should be given to the following items during construction:

- Protect dirt stock piles
- Minimize disturbance areas and exposed soils
- Protect trees and roots
- Provide storm drain protection
- Utilize, clean and maintain erosion and sediment controls such as:
  - Silt fence
  - Straw waddles
  - Hay bales
  - Inlet protection/silt sacks

Once this discharge reaches waterways, it creates problems such as turbidity (cloudiness of the water) and chemical changes to the water. These changes affect drinking water quality and can even kill fish and other aquatic wildlife.

Ideally, the only thing that should runoff a construction site project and enter a storm drain is rainwater - clean, uncontaminated rainwater. An effective stormwater management program is one in which ALL potential pollutants are recognized and a plan to control or prevent them is implemented. As a result suitable water quality can be assured for the safety of the public and environmental resource areas.

TOWN OF ARLINGTON
Department of Public Works
Engineering Division
51 Grove Street
Arlington, MA 02476
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Stormwater Tips:

Erosion and Sediment Control for Construction

The Mystic River is only a storm drain away.

What goes in here, ...

... comes out here.

Allowing stormwater with sediment or pollutants to leave your construction site and enter into a storm drain or waterway is against Federal, State and some local laws!

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As an owner, operator or supervisor of a construction site, you may be held financially responsible for any environmental damage caused by your subcontractors or employees!

Plan In Advance to Prevent Pollution:

- Remove existing vegetation only as needed.
- Schedule excavation, grading and paving operations for dry weather periods.
- Designate a specific area of the site, well away from storm drains or waterways, for material storage and equipment maintenance.
- Educate your employees and subcontractors about stormwater management requirements and their pollution prevention responsibilities.
- Have extra erosion controls (such as haybales, straw waddles and silt fence/silt socks) on site in case of any emergency.
- Protect trees and roots.
- Develop and implement an effective combination of erosion and sediment controls for the site.

Best Management Practices and good housekeeping can significantly reduce pollutant discharges from your construction site. Please follow the suggestions below to keep local waterways free from pollutants.

- Protect all storm drain inlets and streams located near the site.
- Limit access to and from the site and stabilize construction entrances and exits.
- Sweep frequently.
- Protect stockpiles by storing under a roof, impermeable tarp, or plastic sheeting.
- Do not store or stockpile materials near a storm drain, wetland or stream.
- Perform major maintenance and repairs of vehicles off site.
- Wash out concrete mixers only in designated washout areas away from resources, and set up small mixers on tarps.
- Remove trash, debris, and wastes on a regular basis and ensure that dumpsters are covered.
- Clean up small spills immediately using dry cleanup methods, such as an absorbent. Sweep as soon as possible.
- Prevent erosion by implementing soil stabilization practices such as mulching, temporary or permanent seeding.
- Maintain all erosion and sediment control devices, including haybales, straw waddles and silt fence to ensure sediment transported by erosion are contained; clean, maintain and replace if necessary.

Erosion and runoff can occur on any site. It is your responsibility to control runoff and capture any sediment that may leave your site and to clean any sediment that enters the right of way; sidewalk, road and/or catch basins

Understanding how to control stormwater discharges from your construction site requires at a minimum, an erosion and sediment control plan to determine how to reduce and/or capture runoff by implementing suitable runoff control techniques and effectively maintaining them.

For any disturbance within the Mystic River Watershed greater than 1 acre, you most likely will need to complete a BRP WM09 permit issued through the Mass Department of Environmental Protection as well.

(http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/approvals/surffms.htm#npdes2)

Any work located within the jurisdictional limits of a designated wetland resource areas shall be first approved by the Arlington Conservation Commission.

https://www.arlingtonma.gov/town-governance/all-boards-and-committees/conservation-commission

Be sure all required permits and associated conditions are met or fines can be imposed on a daily basis!