Tracking onto Roadways

Why Should I Care about Dirt on the Street?

Dirt on streets is more than just unsightly. It clogs gutters, sumps and storm drains which can lead to flooding. This sediment not only creates temporary obstructions, it can also shorten the lifespan of storm drainage structures, especially sumps. Inflow of sediment can cloud water, blocking sunlight from submerged plants. Sediment also settles to the bottom of streams, clogging the gravel beds used by fish for laying their eggs. Other pollutants such as metals, diazinon and chlorpyrifos often attach to sediment particles and can be transported far downstream in floods, spreading their toxic effects.

Keeping Dirt Off the Streets & Out of Stormwater Runoff

Mud and dirt from unpaved areas often cover our streets. This is especially true in times of rain and snow. All that mud and dirt not only makes a big ugly mess, it can lead to flooding and cause damage to storm sewers. It even has the potential to pollute local water bodies or even our drinking water. How can we limit the amount of dirt and mud tracked onto city streets from construction sites?

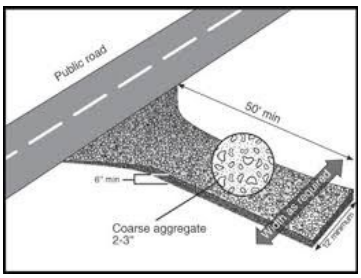
Three common practices help to minimize tracking:

- Stabilized entrances
- Tire washes
- Street Sweeping
- Paving permanent parking lots

Stabilized Entrances

Entrances to unpaved areas can be stabilized to reduce the tracking of mud and dirt onto public roads by vehicles. These stabilized entrances should be used at sites where:

- Dirt or mud can be tracked onto public roads.
- Poor soils are encountered.
- Dust is a problem during dry weather conditions.



A properly maintained entrance consists of a properly graded pad of 1” (or larger) angular gravel placed over a geo-textile fabric. This pad should be 6” deep, 15’ wide and 50’ long and drain to a sediment trap. To maintain a construction entrance, re-screen or wash gravel, or apply additional rock to maintain effectiveness. Access to unpaved areas must be limited to properly maintained entrances. Dirt that is tracked out must be cleaned daily.

Tire Washes

Tire wash stations are located at stabilized construction entrances to spray off sediment from tires and under-carriages, and to prevent sediment from being transported onto public roadways. Tire washes may be appropriate when stabilized entrances are not sufficient in preventing sediment from tracking onto adjacent roads. Tire washes should drain to sediment traps. This BMP should be used in conjunction with street sweeping on adjacent public right of way.

An effective vehicle tracking control helps remove sediment (mud or dirt) from vehicles, reducing tracking onto the paved surface and is particularly important during the following conditions.

- Wet weather periods when mud is easily tracked off site.
- During dry weather periods where dust is a concern.
- When poorly drained, clayey soils are present on site.

What is required by the NPDES/SDS construction stormwater permit?

The NPDES/SDS Construction Stormwater Permit states that the tracking of sediment from a **construction site** or **business** onto roadways must be minimized with appropriate best management practices (BMPs) such as stone pads, concrete or steel wash racks or equivalent systems. If these BMPs are not adequate in preventing sediment tracking, street sweeping is required. All external washing of vehicles must be limited to a defined area and runoff must be contained to prevent transport of sediment offsite.

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