Silt fencing, also known as filter fabric fencing, provides a temporary physical barrier to intercept and prevent sediment from leaving the construction site. Before leaving the site, runoff must pass through filter fabric fencing or other sediment filtration measure to protect waterways.

**CONSTRUCTION GUIDELINES:**

- Follow manufacturer’s instructions for installation of filter fabric.
- Choose filter fabric with proper porosity and ability to trap sediments for type of soil and its location.
- Splice fabric joints together only at support posts, with a minimum 6 inch overlap.
- Place posts a maximum of 6 feet apart, driven 30 inches into the ground (where possible).
- Dig a trench 1-foot deep along line of posts; extend fabric into the trench, then fill the trench with 3/4 inch gravel.
- Use wire fence backing and/or closer posts to increase fence strength when needed.

**LOCATION:**

- Downside of all slopes
- At site perimeter
- At maximum slope steepness of 1H:1V
- No more than 100 feet from upper edge of a disturbed slope (more than one row of silt fencing may be needed)
- At minor swales and ditches, prior to or following a sediment trap (not intended for areas of concentrated flows)
MAINTENANCE:

- Inspect fencing on a regular basis (and daily during periods of prolonged rainfall).
- Repair any damage immediately.
- Remove sediment from the uphill side when it reaches 6 inches in height.

Refer to the BMP Maintenance Checklist on pages 53 and 54.

Figure 2. Silt Fence
SEDIMENT TRAP

DESCRIPTION & PURPOSE:
A sediment trap collects stormwater runoff in a small pond where sediment settles out before being released through a gravel outlet. Runoff must pass through a sediment pond or other sediment filtration measure before leaving the site to protect waterways.

CONSTRUCTION GUIDELINES:
- Construct sediment traps before grading or other land disturbing activity begins.
- Discharge sediment-laden water on-site in level, vegetated areas – but not in wetlands. (Threatens water quality and quantity, endangers wildlife habitat.)
- Consult an engineer to calculate pond size if higher level of protection is needed due to downstream conditions.
- Sink a stake into the trap marked prominently 1-foot above the bottom of trap to determine sediment depth.

LOCATION:
- Any area where stormwater runoff may leave the construction site
- Where tributary drainage area is less than 3 acres, with no unusual features, and a projected quick build-out time

ESTIMATED LIFE:
6 months

DO’S & DON’TS:
- Evaluate each construction site individually to determine where and how to release stormwater runoff.
- Make sure all stormwater leaving site passes through a sediment trap.
- Do not release runoff onto a wetland. (Threatens water quality and quantity, endangers wildlife habitat.)
MAINTENANCE:

- Remove sediment from the trap when it reaches 1-foot in depth, spread over the surrounding area, and stabilize.
- Repair any damage to the trap embankments or slopes.
- Maintain trap until site is permanently protected against erosion.

Refer to the BMP Maintenance Checklist on pages 53 and 54.

Figure 3. Sediment Trap