

Chapter 6 **Sediment Traps**

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Temporary Sediment Traps

Sediment Traps are small impoundments that allow sediment to settle out of stormwater runoff.

Sediment Traps are usually used for areas draining 5 acres or less. Traps should not be located closer than 20 feet from a proposed building foundation or highway alignment.

A permanent detention pond can be used as a Temporary Sediment Trap if:

- It is marked on the SWMP as a temporary control measure.
- The pond is inspected and maintained in accordance with the Stormwater Construction Permit.
- The pond is designed and implemented in accordance with good engineering, hydraulic, and pollution control practices; it includes an outlet that discharges water withdrawn from or near the surface, unless infeasible.
- Outlets that withdraw water from or near the surface shall be installed when discharging from basins and impoundments, unless infeasible.

Tips

- Install Temporary Sediment Traps before any land disturbance takes place in the drainage area.
- Remove sediment from the Trap when the wet storage volume has been reduced by half.
- Underly the outlet of a Trap with geotextile fabric; the outlet should be at least 1 foot high.
- The slope on the outlet shall be no steeper than 2:1.
- Use riprap $D_{50} = 12$ inch for Sediment Trap outlets.

- Dig down Sediment Traps only to a maximum of 4 feet, do not install in live streams, and do not mix with groundwater.



Sediment Traps often have pipe risers, but well-constructed rock overflow outlet notches in the dam or retaining berm are acceptable if the overflow area is protected from erosion.

Float Skimmers

Float Skimmers rest on the surface of the pond and pump water out of the pond. The Skimmer allows sediment to settle to the bottom of the pond while drawing clean runoff from the surface. They work best for catchment basins collecting 0.75 acre or less.

Tips

- Ensure the basin length to width ratio is 2:1.
- Use baffles to prevent damage caused from large debris.
- Provide erosion protection for all Skimmer outfalls.