

UNC Stormwater Requirements for Construction Projects

The North Carolina Sedimentation Pollution Control Act of 1973 requires that all land-disturbing activities, regardless of size, implement effective temporary and permanent control measures to prevent accelerated erosion and off-site sedimentation. Even if your site is not required to have an Erosion and Sedimentation Plan, you are still required to prevent soil from leaving your site.

All contractors are required to comply with the elements of the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan (and Permit if applicable), regardless of project size.

This is a summary of common items that need to be addressed on construction sites. Refer to the ESC Plan in the Construction Drawings and the NCDEQ-issued ESC Permit for complete requirements.

1. Notify UNC EHS Prior to Installation of ESC Measures and Pre-Construction

Call EHS at (919) 883-7163, (919) 843-0475, or (919) 962-5507.

2. Inspection of ESC Measures

All sites 0.1 acres or larger are required to fill out inspection sheets for ESC measures weekly AND within 24 hours of rain greater than 1.0 inches. Use the NCDEQ form "DEMLR Monitoring Form Rev. 07012020". Always document daily rainfall on regular workdays, even when rainfall is 0.0 inches.

3. Silt Fence

Silt/sediment fence must be maintained throughout the duration of the project. Repairs must be made within 24 hours of damage.

4. Inlet Protection

Inlets inside and down slope of disturbed areas need to be protected. Inlet protection must be maintained throughout the duration of the project with accumulated soil removed as needed.

5. Dewatering

Dewatering of excavations must be run through a silt/sediment bag placed away from storm drains. Do not allow muddy water to discharge in such a way that it directly or indirectly flows into storm drains.

6. Concrete Handling

Concrete washouts must be used where large amounts of concrete will be handled. For smaller operations, place tarps and berms below equipment that generates or transports concrete. Do not allow concrete wastewater to enter storm drains.

7. Soil Stockpiles

Soil stockpiles must be covered, seeded, and/or surrounded by silt fence when not in use.

8. Construction Entrances

Any soil that tracked out of the site must be dry-swept up immediately (not washed down the storm drain). Gravel, plates, or mats may be placed at entrances to prevent soil from being tracked offsite.

9. Equipment Spills





All spills generated by equipment on site must be cleaned up immediately. The cleanup materials must be disposed of appropriately. If you have any questions on how to clean up a spill or how to dispose of the waste, contact UNC Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) at (919) 962-5507 or call 911.

10. Temporary Groundcover

If an area of the site is to remain unworked for 7 days, temporary ground cover needs to be installed. Ground cover can be plastic tarp, erosion control blankets (RECP), mulch, or grass. All temporary and permanent seeding must be native, non-invasive species. RECP must not contain plastic.

11. Pressure-Washing

Soap and detergents are almost never allowed, and debris and sediment must not be washed into stormdrains. State and Federal laws dictate the use and disposal of certain cleaning chemicals

Pressure-Washing Guidelines		
Type of Surface	Cleaning Method	Proper Disposal of Wastewater
Sidewalks, Plazas	Without Soap: Dry cleanup first (broom), then wash.	Screen wash water, if needed, to catch debris, then discharge water to landscaping, gutter, street or storm drain.
	With Soap: Dry cleanup first (broom), then block storm drains and contain runoff.	Collect water, screen water to remove solids, and pump wastewater to the sanitary sewer. Make sure pH is between 6 and 10 before disposing of the water into the sanitary sewer. (Contact EHS if you need help verifying the pH.)
Parking lots, Driveways, Restaurant/Food Handling Areas, Dumpster Areas, Loading Docks, Grease Storage	With or Without Soap: Clean up any oil, grease, or dumpster discharge using absorbents. Sweep and bag absorbents for disposal. Block storm drains and contain runoff.	Collect water, screen water to remove solids, make sure pH is between 6 and 10, and pump wastewater to sanitary sewer. Contact EHS for assistance with alternative disposal options if there is a high concentration of petroleum products.
Unpainted Building Surfaces, Exterior Brick and Masonry Walls, Wood Decks, etc.	Without Soap: Screen runoff for solids. 	Discharge water to landscaping, gutter, street, or storm drain.
	With Soap: Block storm drains and contain runoff. 	Collect water, screen to remove solids, make sure pH is between 6 and 10, and pump wastewater to sanitary sewer.
Painted surfaces without loose paint (call EHS for assistance to determine paint's lead content).	Without Soap: Use high-pressure water, no soap. 	Lead-free paint: Screen wash water, if needed, to catch debris, then discharge water to landscaping, gutter, street or storm drain. Paint contains lead: Collect water, screen to remove lead and solids, make sure pH is between 6 and 10, and pump to sanitary sewer.
Painted surfaces being cleaned to remove paint or graffiti (call EHS for assistance to determine paint's lead content).	With or Without Soap: Block the storm drain and contain runoff. 	Collect water, screen to remove solids, make sure pH is between 6 and 10, and pump to sanitary sewer.

Please note that **biodegradable soap** is subject to the same disposal procedures as any other soap. Contact EHS at 962-5507 if you have questions or need assistance setting up a power washing operation on campus. More details on how to collect and dispose of wash water can be found at <http://ehs.unc.edu/environmental/stormwater/mobile.shtm>