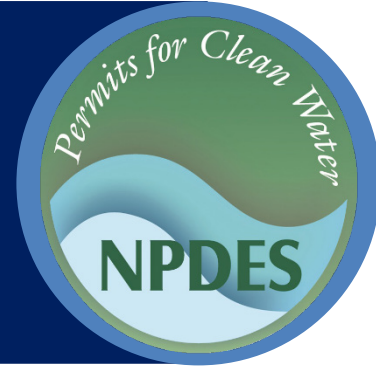




# Stormwater Best Management Practice

## Erosion and Sediment Control

### Inspection and Maintenance



**Minimum Measure:** Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control  
**Subcategory:** Construction Site Planning and Management

#### Description

Erosion and sediment controls (ESCs) need regular inspections to ensure their effectiveness, and many permitting authorities require construction staff to perform self-inspections. ESC inspections fall into three categories: routine inspections, inspections before rain events and inspections after rain events.

#### Routine Inspections

Routine inspections are an integral part of regular maintenance. They are necessary to ensure the integrity and effectiveness of ESCs and give construction staff an opportunity to correct any problems found. Furthermore, routine inspection and maintenance minimizes the work needed to prepare a site before a rain event and helps protect a site from unexpected storms.

#### Inspections Before Rain Events

It is critically important for construction staff to pay attention to weather forecasts. To prepare for a rain event, they should walk the construction site and ensure that ESCs are clear and operating properly. They should verify that they have covered all dumpsters, covered paint and other chemicals, and cleaned up any oil spills. Construction staff should perform these types of housekeeping practices routinely. They should also visually inspect all ESCs when the site will be inactive for several days, such as over weekends or holidays. This will help to prepare for rain when workers are off-site. These inspections also minimize the risk of on- or off-site property damage due to inoperative or malfunctioning ESCs.

#### Inspections After Rain Events

After a rain event, construction staff should prepare the site for the next event. Typically, within 48 hours after a rain event, they should inspect, clean and repair any



Construction staff inspecting a storm drain with inlet protection in an active construction area.

Photo Credit: PG Environmental for USEPA

damaged ESCs. This will keep the site “clean” and minimize complaints from nearby residents. To prevent health and safety hazards, staff should remove tracked-out sediment or mud in traffic areas and remove standing water to prevent mosquito breeding. They should also clean or repair any ESC clogged with mud or debris so it works properly the next time it rains.

#### Applicability

Stormwater discharges from construction sites disturbing 1 or more acres are generally covered under a state or EPA permit. These permits typically require construction staff to conduct routine site inspections looking at, for example, installation, function, and operation and maintenance of controls. As well, local permits may impose ESC requirements—and other inspection requirements—on a site. Staff should design and inspect all ESC controls in accordance with applicable local, state and federal requirements. Adequate ESC performance requires not only proper installation, but also regular inspection and maintenance.





