



## SILT FENCE

### DEFINITION AND PURPOSE:

A silt fence consists of a length of filter fabric stretched between anchoring posts spaced at regular intervals along the site at low/downslope areas. The filter fabric should be **entrenched** in the ground between the support posts. When installed correctly and inspected frequently, silt fences encourage the ponding of runoff and settling of sediment. **Silt fence should not be placed perpendicular to a slope.**

### APPROPRIATE APPLICATIONS:

Installed along slopes, at bases of slopes, and around the perimeter of a site as a final barrier to sediment being carried off site. **Silt fence should not be used in areas of concentrated flow or as check dams.**

### CONDITIONS FOR EFFECTIVE USE:

Type of Flow: Sheet flow only

Contributing Area: Drainage area should not exceed 0.25 acres per 100-foot fence length.



Silt fence used as a perimeter control.

### WHEN BMP IS TO BE INSTALLED:

Prior to disturbance of natural vegetation and at intervals during construction of fill slopes.

### STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS:

If a standard-strength fabric is used, it can be reinforced with wire mesh behind the filter fabric. This increases the effective life of the fence. The maximum life expectancy for synthetic fabric silt fences is about 6 months, depending on the amount of rainfall and runoff. The fence should be designed to withstand the runoff from a 10-year peak storm event. Generally, drive posts for fence line, dig trench to required dimensions in front of posts for fabric burial, attach wire mesh to posts (if necessary), attach fabric to posts-allowing required length below ground level to run fabric along bottom of trench, and backfill and compact soil in trench to protect and anchor fabric. Alternate construction procedures include installing the fence by slicing it into the ground with specialized equipment.

### OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES:

Inspect every week and after every 1/2" storm event. Remove sediment buildup once it accumulates to 6 inches. Replace torn/clogged fabric; repair loose fabric. Repair unstable or broken posts. Stabilize any areas susceptible to undermining. Add additional fencing if necessary to provide adequate protection.

### SITE CONDITIONS FOR REMOVAL:

After permanent vegetation of slope is established. Remove fence, regrade trench area and vegetate.

### TYPICAL DETAILS:

SC-2.1 and SC-2.2