

Who regulates soil runoff?

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) holds permitting authority for Oklahoma construction sites.



OKLAHOMA
Environmental
Quality

These permits require construction sites to implement **erosion control** best management practices to preserve disturbed topsoil.

For questions, or to apply for a permit, contact the DEQ:

405-702-8100
oklahoma.gov/deq

For more resources, visit

StormwaterOK.net



GCSA

GREEN COUNTRY STORMWATER ALLIANCE

What is **SEDIMENT POLLUTION?**



How you can protect
Oklahoma's waters from
excess soil

How can soil be a pollutant?

How is dirt in a stream considered “pollution?” Isn’t sediment a natural part of streams?

While it is true that sediment is natural in streambeds, **too much** sediment and **disturbed** sediment can harm the ecosystem of the stream.



When excess sediment runs off into a stream

- Water becomes **cloudy**, allowing less light to infiltrate the water and making it harder for animals to see.
- Fish gills can **clog** with particles, suffocating them and effecting the ecosystem’s balance.
- Sediment can build up in storm drains, causing **flooding** in localized areas.
- Deposits settle at the bottom of streams, **filling in** the smallest animals’ habitat.
- Chemicals and nutrients attach to sediment particle and **pollute** the water.

How can I stop soil runoff?

To prevent soil erosion as a homeowner,

- Sweep up excess soil from driveways instead of washing it into the storm drain.
- Sod any bare spots in your lawn, especially if your lawn neighbors a creek.

Construction sites should always follow soil erosion prevention practices, such as

- Install silt fences, meshes, dikes etc.
- Install storm drain **inlet barriers** to prevent stormwater from carrying sediment.
- **Sod** land with grass as soon as possible instead of waiting.
- Install vegetated swales.
- Ensure the site entrance/exit is **stabilized** and does not have loose sediment.

Construction sites should also periodically inspect the site for any problem areas to determine if extra measures are needed.