

**SOIL EROSION PERMITS
THE SOIL SEDIMENTATION CONTROL ACT
(ACT 347 OF PUBLIC ACTS OF 1972)**

WHY IS SOIL EROSION CONTROL IMPORTANT?

Sediment is the greatest pollutant by volume entering out lakes and streams. Sediment is the product of uncontrolled erosion. Everyone in Michigan is affected by erosion and off-site sedimentation. Erosion and sedimentation result in: loss of fertile topsoil, filling of lakes and streams, increased flooding, damage to plant and animal life, and structural damage to buildings and roads. **Construction is one of the major causes of erosion in Michigan.** Without proper planning and management over 100 tons of sediment per acre per year can be generated on some construction sites.

WHAT ACTIVITIES REQUIRE A SOIL EROSION PERMIT?

A permit is required for any earth change that disturbs **ONE OR MORE ACRES, OR IS WITHIN 500 FEET OF A LAKE OR STREAM.** Exempted activities include plowing and tilling of crop production, logging and mining. (Access roads to these activities are not exempted).

SOIL EROSION PERMITS MAY BE OBTAINED AT
THE MECOSTA COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSION OFFICE
400 Elm Street, Room 201
Big Rapids, MI 49307

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET YOUR PERMIT

In order to obtain the soil erosion permit you will need to know:

- The Location (Township, Section, Lot No.(s). Subdivision Etc.)
- The Size of Earth Change (Acres)
- The Distance To The Nearest Lake, Stream and or Drain
- The Approximate Duration of the Project

You also will need to be able to explain ***how you are planning to control soil erosion and sedimentation on your site.***

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT
THE COUNTY ENFORCEMENT AGENT FOR SOIL EROSION
SHERRY SAMUEL, DRAIN COMMISSIONER
231-592-0103

THE COUNTY ENFORCEMENT AGENT HAS JURISDICTION FOR ALL OF MECOSTA COUNTY