

# 2 Erosion protection

## Soil cover

Covering soil is the best way to stop erosion caused by rain and wind. Unlike sediment barriers (such as sediment fences), which capture eroded coarse sediment, erosion controls can stop both coarse and fine sediment from eroding in the first place.

### How

- Only clear the area necessary to undertake building work. Keep as much existing soil cover on your site as possible.
- Only clear immediately before commencing building work, not weeks or months in advance.
- Cover bare soil as soon as possible. Rather than waiting for building work to finish, find a temporary covering that can be walked on during the building stage.

Some examples to cover soil include:

Surface Type	Soil Cover Type
Slopes and batters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erosion control blankets</li> <li>• Turf and vegetation</li> <li>• Hydromulch</li> </ul>
Service trenches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turf</li> <li>• Gravel</li> </ul>
Stockpiles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tarps</li> <li>• Geofabric</li> <li>• Builder's plastic</li> </ul>
Area between kerb and lot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turf</li> </ul>
All other exposed soil around the building site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mulch and gravel</li> <li>• Turf</li> <li>• Spray-on soil binders</li> </ul>

### Maintenance

Regularly check your soil cover before and after rain. If bare soil is visible, you need to add more cover.

### Site Rehabilitation

Revegetate and landscape your site as soon as building works are complete.

### ESC Tip

Choose cover types that can withstand the expected traffic movements, such as mulch, gravel or turf.



(Source: Catchments and Creeks Pty Ltd)



Hydromulch before (Source: Healthy Land and Water)



Hydromulch after (Source: Healthy Land and Water)



Spray on soil binder (polymer) (Source: Healthy Land and Water)

Find out more at [waterbydesign.com.au/esc](http://waterbydesign.com.au/esc)