

SURFACE STABILIZATION

Erosion Control Blanket



An erosion control blanket is a biodegradable, organic or synthetic mulch incorporated with a biodegradable, photodegradable, or permanent polypropylene, natural fiber, or similar netting material. It is an alternative to mulch and normally used on slopes and in concentrated flow channels.

Purpose

- To prevent erosion by protecting the soil from rainfall impact, overland water flow, concentrated runoff, or wind.
- To provide temporary surface stabilization.
- To anchor mulch in critical areas, including slopes and concentrated flow conveying systems.
- To reduce soil crusting.
- To conserve soil moisture and increase seed germination and seedling growth.

Specifications

Effective Life

The functional life of an erosion control blanket is dependent on the materials used.

Anchoring

Staples, pins or stakes used to prevent movement or displacement of blanket. (Follow manufacturer's recommendations for specific applications.)

Materials

- Organic (straw, excelsior, woven paper, coconut fiber, etc.) or synthetic mulch incorporated with a polypropylene, natural fiber or similar netting material. (The netting may be biodegradable, photodegradable or permanent.)

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Note: Some erosion control blanket nettings may pose a threat to certain species of wildlife if they become entangled in the netting matrix.

- Six to 12-inch staples, pins, or stakes.

Installation

1. Select the type and weight of erosion control blanket to fit the site conditions (e.g., slope, channel, flow velocity) per the manufacturer's specifications.
2. Prepare the seedbed, add soil amendments, and permanently seed (see **Permanent Seeding** on page 35) the area immediately following seedbed preparation.
3. Lay erosion control blankets on the seeded area so that they are in continuous contact with the soil with each up-slope or up-stream blanket overlapping the down-slope or down-stream blanket by at least eight inches, or follow manufacturer's recommendations.
4. Tuck the uppermost edge of the upper blankets into a check slot (slit trench), backfill with soil and tamp down. In certain applications, the manufacturer may require additional check slots at specific locations down slope from the uppermost edge of the upper blankets.
5. Anchor the blankets in place by driving staples, pins, or stakes through the blanket and into the underlying soil. Follow an anchoring pattern appropriate for the site conditions and as recommended by the manufacturer.

Maintenance

- Inspect within 24 hours of each rain event and at least once every seven calendar days.
- Check for erosion or displacement of the blanket.
- If any area shows erosion, pull back that portion of the blanket covering the eroded area, add soil and tamp, reseed the area, replace and staple the blanket.