

Clearing and Grading of Land for Small Construction Projects

This activity applies if you clear, grade or prepare land for projects. Stormwater runoff from cleared and graded sites can be loaded with suspended sediments and attached pollutants such as oils and greases, toxic hydrocarbon and herbicide compounds, metals, and nutrients. Control of this runoff at the source can prevent large pollutant loadings from entering and degrading receiving waters. Prior to clearing, grading, and preparation activities for construction sites greater than 2,000 square feet, the King County Department of Development and Environmental Services (DDES) must be contacted. You may need to follow the procedures for construction site erosion and sediment control outlined in the King County Surface Water Design Manual, Appendix D.

King County DDES coordinates the clearing, grading, and erosion control requirements on individual sites. The King County Surface Water Design Manual has requirements for erosion and sediment control measures. Appendix D (Erosion and Sediment Control Standards) outlines requirements that all sites must implement. The King County Surface Water Design Manual Appendix C (Small Project Drainage Requirements) addresses small project developments. Even if your site does not require a permit, erosion control measures are still required to prevent turbid water from entering drainage systems or surface waters. King County uses the authority of K.C.C. 9.12 and this manual to develop erosion control requirements for those activities not covered by the King County Surface Water Design Manual.

For more information or assistance in implementing these best management practices, contact the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks Stormwater Services Section at 206-296-1900.

Reader Note: The above requirements are the minimum required BMPs. If these BMPs fail to prevent discharges to the storm drainage system you will be asked to take additional measures to correct the continued pollution discharges.