Wayne County Department of Public Services
Environmental Services Division (ESD)
Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control (SESC)
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Who needs a permit?

- Any person undertaking an earth disturbance greater than one acre or within 500 feet of a lake, river, stream, county drain, state regulated wetland, or other "waters of the state."
- A landowner undertaking an earth change of less than one acre that is part of a larger common development may also require a permit.

How many Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control permits does Wayne County currently issue?
Wayne County ESD issues more than 400 permits each year.

How do I apply for a Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control permit?
You can go to https://www.waynecountymi.gov/Government/Departments/Environmental-Services/Land-Resource-Management/Soil-Erosion-Sedimentation-Control to download the application package or contact the Environmental Services Division at (734) 326-3936.

Do other agencies in Wayne County issue Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control permits?
Yes, ESD issues SESC permits in 35 of the 43 Wayne County communities, including the City of Detroit. The following cities are Municipal Enforcing Agencies and issue their own SESC permits: Belleville, Dearborn, Livonia, Southgate, Taylor, Trenton, Westland, Wyandotte

How much does a Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control permit cost and how long does it take?
The permit fee for a single-family residence is $435 for 2 years; fees for other construction projects are calculated based on the acreage of the earth disturbance. A link to the complete fee schedule can be found on our website here - https://www.waynecountymi.gov/Government/Departments/Environmental-Services/Land-Resource-Management/Soil-Erosion-Sedimentation-Control. Applications and plans are reviewed within 30 days from the date of receiving a complete application package.

When do I need an inspection and how do I schedule an inspection?
ESD performs unscheduled inspections depending on the specific project. If you wish to schedule an inspection, please contact the Environmental Services Division at (734) 326-3936.

How long is a Soil Erosion Control permit issued for?
All soil erosion control permits remain active for 2 years. Projects not completed before the permit expiration date must apply for a permit renewal and pay a renewal fee.