Red Tree
Environmental Solutions
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Guidelines for Use and Installation: Compost Berms and Socks

Compost Berms and Compost Socks are stand-alone tools in the erosion - sediment control toobox that provide, additional to filtration, ease of installation and greater versatility when faced with difficult terrain. The following steps are offered as a general guide for the correct installation of Compost Berms or Compost Socks on both level and sloped planes, It is recommended that these tools be implemented as per site specific engineering plans.

Compost Berms

Compost berms are, as a rule of thumb, installed parallel to the base of the slope or around the perimeter of affected areas. The base of the berm should be twice its height and the finished form is trapezoidal in appearance.
A berm 60cm in width x 30cm high will replace a standard 600cm silt fence.

Compost Berms may be seeded at the time of installation for the establishment of permanent vegetation. Cover crops of grass and/or clover may be seeded for fast establishment. Native seed blends can be incorporated in the mix if needed for ecological succession. Direct planting of 5cm plugs of selected native filter species such as Oioi or Flax is also an option for an instant vegetative presence on the berm.

Filter Socks

Filter socks are either filled in situ or delivered to site ready to go. The socks are placed at locations indicated on plans as directed by the engineer. Generally, they are installed parallel to the base of the slope or other affected areas, perpendicular to sheet flow.
Filter socks may be used in direct flow situations at right angles to runoff channels not exceeding 90 cm in depth , normally 20-25 cm diameter filter socks are used. To secure into place, stake the filter socks perpendicular to the water flow, at minimum intervals of 2 linear meters, using a 4 cm by 4 cm wooden stake. The stakes should be projected through the center of the filter sock and into the soil 30 cm deep, with 7.5 to 10 cm protruding above the filter sock.

Filter socks contain a compost blend that is proven to manage both normal and concentrated flow rates and thus can be relied upon to provide filtration even during peak storm events. Additionally, for increased stability or ecological succession, Compost Socks and Berms may be seeded at the time of installation. Varieties of grass, clover and native seed blends are available.

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