



BMP C123 Plastic Covering

What is the purpose? Plastic covering provides immediate, short term erosion protection to slopes and disturbed areas.

Where should it be used? Plastic covering may be used on disturbed areas that require cover measures for less than 30 days, except as stated below.

- Plastic is particularly useful for protecting cut and fill slopes and stockpiles.
- Clear plastic sheeting can be used over newly-seeded areas to create a greenhouse effect and encourage grass growth if the hydroseed was installed too late in the season to establish 75 percent grass cover, or if the wet season started earlier than normal.
- Plastic covering shall not be used upslope of areas that might be adversely impacted by concentrated runoff. Such areas include steep or unstable slopes.
- Whenever plastic is used to protect slopes, water collection measures must be installed at the base of the slope. These measures include plastic-covered berms, channels, and pipes used to covey clean rainwater away from bare soil and disturbed areas. At no time is clean runoff from a plastic covered slope to be mixed with dirty runoff from a project.
- Other uses for plastic include: Temporary ditch or pond liner in temporary sediment pond; Emergency slope protection during heavy rains; and, Temporary drainpipe (“elephant trunk”) used to direct water.

Installation/Maintenance Requirements?

Plastic slope cover must be installed as follows:

1. Run plastic up and down slope, not across slope;
2. Minimum of 8-inch overlap at seams;
3. On long or wide slopes, or slopes subject to wind, all seams should be taped;
4. Place plastic into a small (12-inch wide by 6-inch deep) slot trench at the top of the slope and backfill with soil to keep water from flowing underneath;
5. Place sand filled burlap or geotextile bags every 3 to 6 feet along seams and pound a wooden stake through each to hold them in place;
6. Inspect plastic for rips, tears, and open seams regularly and repair immediately. This prevents high velocity runoff from contacting bare soil which causes extreme erosion