



Post-Construction Soil Quality and Depth BMP T5.13

What is the Purpose? Naturally occurring (undisturbed) soil and vegetation provide important stormwater functions including: water infiltration; nutrient, sediment and pollutant biofiltration; water inflow storage and transmission; and pollutant decomposition. Establishing soil quality and depth to disturbed areas regains the stormwater functions of a pre-developed site. It increases treatment capabilities of the soil, reduces runoff and minimizes the need for landscaping chemicals to the re-established vegetative areas.

What are the Requirements? All sites must use this best management practice for disturbed areas that will be vegetative areas after construction is complete.

1. Retain topsoil to the maximum extent possible. Stockpile excavated topsoil onsite to be reused onsite where feasible.
2. Areas subject to clearing/grading that will be vegetative areas after construction shall meet the following requirements after construction:
 - a. Topsoil layer 8-inches in depth with a minimum of 1 ½ inches of compost tilled in.
 - b. Grass areas shall be seeded or covered with sod.
 - c. Planting beds shall have 2 to 4-inches of wood chips or mulch on top of the soil layer and then planted per the landscaping plans.

What can the area be used for? These areas will be for landscaping and lawn areas. The requirements above do not apply to areas used for stormwater management BMPs installed to treat and/or infiltrate stormwater from hard surfaces. See the requirements for the specific stormwater BMP you have elected to use for your hard surfaces.

