

## Stormwater Pollution Prevention

### For Owners of Newly Constructed Homes

So you're the owner of a new home in Moorhead, congratulations! In new subdivisions, the homebuilder is required to provide you with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) [Sediment and Erosion Control for New Homeowners](#) fact sheet. This fact sheet describes your responsibilities to help protect the environment and a copy is available for download on the City of Moorhead Stormwater Management web page located at: [http://www.ci.moorhead.mn.us/city\\_services/storm\\_water.asp](http://www.ci.moorhead.mn.us/city_services/storm_water.asp).

You may be wondering what the erosion control devices in your yard are and whether they need to be there. The answer is yes. Your homebuilder was required to install and these devices and take measures to prevent soil and sediment from leaving the lot during and following construction activity. If sod was not used to permanently stabilize the lot, you are responsible for ensuring that soil and sediment is not washed off your property and to establish vegetation or other ground cover. When rain falls on exposed ground, it can carry soil nutrients and other pollutants into the street, gutters, ditches, and stormwater ponds before ultimately discharging to the Red River. Nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, can cause excessive growth of weeds and algae and reduce the amount of oxygen available to aquatic life. Sediment can also clog the stormwater system, increasing maintenance costs and the likelihood of localized flooding.

**Temporary Stabilization.** Examples of temporary erosion and sediment control measures include silt fence, straw wattles/sediment logs (see picture), mulch, mesh blankets, and temporary seed. These measures work by either preventing soil erosion, or keeping eroded soil from leaving your lot, but allowing the filtered runoff to pass through. As a new homeowner, you are responsible for inspecting and maintaining the stabilization devices until permanent ground cover is established.

**Permanent Stabilization.** After fine grading has occurred, the maximum period of time your boulevard (right-of-way) can be left exposed is five days. If permanent stabilization (usually grass) does not occur within the five day period, temporary stabilization measures will have to be re-installed until grass is established.



### For All Citizens

Stormwater runoff does not go to a treatment plant, but is discharged to the Red River. There are many ways a homeowner can help reduce polluted runoff. For more information, questions, or concerns regarding stormwater pollution, please call the Stormwater Hotline at [218-299-5386](tel:218-299-5386) or visit the City Stormwater Management web page.

- Follow the law by picking up and properly disposing of your pet's waste. Burying or flushing is the best disposal method, but do not flush cat litter.
- Keep trash, soil, grass clippings, and leaves off streets and out of storm drains, ditches, and the Red River.
- Use phosphorus free lawn fertilizers. Valley soils tend to be rich in phosphorus.
- Minimize the use of pesticides, fertilizers, and de-icing materials.
- Wash your vehicle on the lawn or use a commercial car wash.
- Keep your vehicle tuned up and repair fluid leaks.
- Properly dispose of hazardous waste. Don't pour oil, pesticides, paint or other materials on the ground or down the storm drain. Clay County offers a free service for residents to dispose of and exchange household hazardous products. The facility is located at 2729 Hwy 10 East in Moorhead. For more information, call 218-299-5077 or visit their website at [www.co.clay.mn.us](http://www.co.clay.mn.us).