

# STANDARD AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR SILT FENCE



## Definition

A temporary barrier of geotextile fabric installed on the contours across a slope used to intercept sediment laden runoff from small drainage areas of disturbed soil.

## Purpose

The purpose of a silt fence is to reduce runoff velocity and effect deposition of transported sediment load. Limits imposed by ultraviolet stability of the fabric will dictate the maximum period the silt fence may be used (approximately one year).

## Conditions Where Practice Applies

A silt fence may be used subject to the following conditions:

1. Maximum allowable slope lengths contributing runoff to a silt fence placed on a slope are:

Slope Steepness	Maximum Length (ft.)
2:1	25
3:1	50
4:1	75
5:1 or flatter	100

2. Maximum drainage area for overland flow to a silt fence shall not exceed ¼ acre per 100 feet of fence, with maximum ponding depth of 1.5 feet behind the fence; and
3. Erosion would occur in the form of sheet erosion; and
4. There is no concentration of water flowing to the barrier.

## Design Criteria

Design computations are not required for installations of 1 month or less. Longer installation periods should be designed for expected runoff. All silt fences shall be placed as close to the areas as possible, but at least 10 feet from the toe of a slope to allow for maintenance and roll down. The area beyond the fence must be undisturbed or stabilized.

Sensitive areas to be protected by silt fence may need to be reinforced by using heavy wire fencing for added support to prevent collapse.

Where ends of filter cloth come together, they shall be overlapped, folded and stapled to prevent sediment bypass. A detail of the silt fence shall be shown on the plan. See Figure 5A.8 on page 5A.21 for details.

## Criteria for Silt Fence Materials

1. Silt Fence Fabric: The fabric shall meet the following specifications unless otherwise approved by the appropriate erosion and sediment control plan approval authority. Such approval shall not constitute statewide acceptance.

Fabric Properties	Minimum Acceptable Value	Test Method
Grab Tensile Strength (lbs)	90	ASTM D1682
Elongation at Failure (%)	50	ASTM D1682

Mullen Burst Strength (PSI)	190	ASTM D3786
Puncture Strength (lbs)	40	ASTM D751 (modified)
Slurry Flow Rate (gal/min/sf)	0.3	
Equivalent Opening Size	40-80	US Std Sieve CW-02215
Ultraviolet Radiation Stability (%)	90	ASTM G-26

2. Fence Posts (for fabricated units): The length shall be a minimum of 36 inches long. Wood posts will be of sound quality hardwood with a minimum cross sectional area of 3.0 square inches. Steel posts will be standard T and U section weighing not less than 1.00 pound per linear foot.

3. Wire Fence (for fabricated units): Wire fencing shall be a minimum 14 gage with a maximum 6 in. mesh opening, or as approved.

4. Prefabricated Units: Envirofence, Geofab, or approved equal, may be used in lieu of the above method providing the unit is installed per details shown in Figure 5A.8.

**Figure 5A.8**  
**Silt Fence**

