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Minimal Impact Project Requirements

What is a Minimal Impact Project?

Any activity that exposes soil through the use of motorized equipment (i.e. ground disturbing activity) where:

- Less than 10,000 square feet of surface area is disturbed (excluding the placement of gravel, or asphalt) at any one time; and
- Areas disturbed are more than 200feet by horizontal measurement from the top of the bank of a water body or from the boundary of National Wetlands Inventory mapped wetlands associated with a water body, whichever distance is greater; and
- Slopes before development are less than 10 percent (10 Horizontal: 1 Vertical); and
- Unsupported finished slopes will be less than a 33 percent (3 Horizontal: 1 Vertical) grade and less than five feet in height.

How Do I Begin a Minimal Impact Project?

Before you can begin a Minimal Impact Project, you must demonstrate the project qualifies and have your plans stamped by a county land use planner. You will need to supply technical information about your specific proposal and the site before your plans can be stamped. The required information includes:

1. **(Project Description)** Please provide a short description of the proposal. Include the square footage and locations of new structures proposed, describe grading activities and provide a construction timeline detailing the order construction stages will occur. Please describe where soil will be disturbed and stockpiled (including the volumes in cubic yards) and include a detailed description of all erosion control measures you propose.

2. **(Plans)** The number of plan copies varies by permit issuer: six (6) for Portland, four (4) for Gresham. See "Zoning Checklist for Building Permit" for a list of the required plan details. You will need to note the slopes in the development area, delineate the area of ground disturbance, show all cut, fill and stockpile locations and illustrate all erosion control measures proposed.

3. **(Storm Water Certificate)** You will need to have an Oregon Registered Professional Engineer sign the attached storm water certificate if more than 500 square feet of impervious surface will be added.

4. **(Service Provider Forms)** Have the fire district, water district (if applicable), and septic service department comment on your proposal. Forms and contact numbers are attached. The respective districts may

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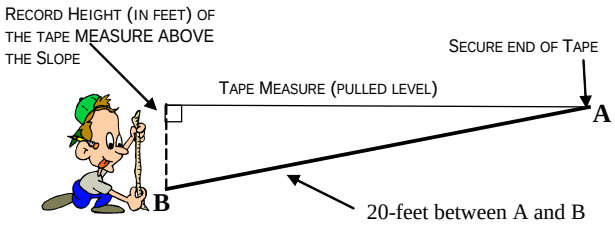
need to review a copy of your site plan and project description.

5. **(Fee)** Provide the erosion control inspection fee during county plan signoff.

How Do I Measure the Slopes in the Development Area?

You will need to measure the slopes across the development area, noting the slopes on the site plans you bring to the county. Follow the steps below to measure the slopes using a tape measure and measuring stick.



1. Secure the end of a tape measure on the ground on the uphill side of the development area at point A (see diagram bottom left).

2. Walk downhill (20) feet to point B and pull the tape measure flat (horizontal).

3. Measure the vertical distance (*see "Inches Above Slope" in table below*) from the ground at point B to the horizontal tape measure above point B.

4. Use the table below to find the slope percent of development area. You may need to run a few 20-foot long sections to cover the entire development area. Please measure and document the slope of each section measured. Illustrate on the site plan where you collected the measurements.

Inches Above Slope	**Slope**
1-inch	0.4%
2-inches	0.8%
3-inches	1.3%
4-inches	1.7%
5-inches	2.1%
6-inches	2.5%
7-inches	2.9%
8-inches	3.3%
9-inches	3.8%
10-inches	4.2%
11-inches	4.6%
12-inches	5.0%
13-inches	5.4%
14-inches	5.8%
15-inches	6.3%
16-inches	6.7%
17-inches	7.1%
18-inches	7.5%
19-inches	7.9%
20-inches	8.4%
21-inches	8.8%
22-inches	9.2%
23-inches	9.6%
24-inches	10%*

*Contact a land use planner if the slopes exceed 10%.

What Types of Erosion Control Should I Consider for a Minimal Impact Project?

Many techniques can be used to control the amount of sediment disturbed during construction. These are a few techniques that may prove effective for a minimal impact project.

- Delineate the area of ground disturbance in the field with flags or stakes before construction begins to assure the smallest disturbed area is exposed.
- Cover all stockpiled soil with plastic sheeting when not in use.
- Try to stage development so one portion of the site is revegetated before beginning to work in another area. It is important to try to avoid disturbing the entire construction area at one time.
- Install a gravel construction entrance to the site to avoid tracking sediment onto roadways.
- Install sediment fencing downhill of the development area with the toe of the sediment fence buried to prevent water from passing under the fence.
- Re-seed or install landscaping in all disturbed areas as soon as possible.
- Cover all disturbed areas as soon as possible with organic mulching such as straw or hay.

How Should I Install Erosion Control Measures?

The attached pamphlet entitled "Field Guide to Erosion and Sediment Control: Construction Sites" is a good starting point to understand how basic erosion control measures should be installed. The most current edition of the City of Portland's Erosion Control Handbook is a more detailed technical guide – available at the Land Use Planning office or online at: **www.portland.online.com/bds**

Where Can I Purchase Erosion Control Measures?

A list of local erosion control vendors, native plant and seed suppliers and compost processors is attached.