



**Activity: Erosion Control Mats/Blankets**

SPD-03.6

**Approach**

- **Straw Blanket** consist of weed free straw with a  $\frac{5}{16} \times \frac{5}{16}$  top side and a minimum thickness of  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. and minimum dry weight of 0.5 lbs per square yard.
- **Excelsior blankets** are curled wood excelsior formed into a blanket with  $1 \frac{1}{2} \times 3$  in. mesh sides and a minimum thickness of  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. with a 0.8 dry weight lbs per square yard.
- **Coconut blankets** consist of 100% coconut fiber with a  $\frac{1}{4}$  thickness, a minimum dry weight of 0.5 lbs per square yard and a  $\frac{5}{8} \times \frac{5}{8}$  in. maximum mesh .
- **Wood fiber blankets** consist of reprocessed wood fiber with a maximum mesh size of  $\frac{5}{8} \times \frac{3}{4}$  in. and a 0.35 lbs per square yard minimum dry weight.
- **Jute mesh** consist of woven root fiber or yarn with regularly spaced openings between strands and a 1.0 lbs per square yard dry weight for basic slope applications.

**Installation Procedures**

- Shape and grade site.
- Prepare a friable seedbed free from clods and rocks.
- Temporary blankets should be installed vertically from the top of the slope to bottom.
- For shallower slopes (less than 2:1) with height twice as much as the width, and a maximum height of 16 feet, the blanket may be applied horizontally. Concentrated flow area blankets should be placed in the direction of water flow.
- Entrench blanket beyond the top and bottom of the slope and at any horizontal joint a minimum of 6 in.
- Permanent matting begins installation at the bottom of the slope and works towards the top while being centered in the middle of the channel.
- Shingle upstream layer over downstream layer overlapping 3 ft.
- Temporary blankets should be anchored with staples per manufacturing directions.
- Manufacturer's recommendations should be followed when choosing products.
- All preliminary seeding and soil amendments should be done prior to installation of temporary blankets.
- Permanent matting areas should be brought to final grade before installation of matting. After installation and backfilling of topsoil, seeding and mulch should be applied.

**Maintenance**

- Inspect erosion control matting before (if anticipated) and within 24 hours following rainfall events to check for movement of topsoil, mulch or erosion. Continue checking until vegetation is firmly established.
- Inspect blankets or mats at least every 14 days.
- Repair or replace netting that has been washed out, broken, eroded, and/or needing surface repair, re-seeding, re-sodding, re-mulching or topsoil replacement.

**Inspection Checklist**

- Inspection completed before a storm event.
- Inspection completed within 24 hours after the end of a storm event of 0.5 inches or greater.
- Erosion control mats are properly tucked.
- Damaged areas have been repaired.