

How an Inspector Sees Your Site

Walk it the way they walk it, before they do.

An inspector works a site in a set order and stops at the same things every time. None of it is a secret. Put a project manager on the same walk at a regular cadence and nothing on their list becomes a surprise on yours.

FILL THIS IN ONCE, PER SITE

Every state writes its own permit and some hand enforcement down to the county. Take these four numbers off the permit governing this site.

Inspect every _____

Stabilize within _____

Rain trigger _____

Correct within _____

1 BEFORE YOU WALK

- ☐ Current SWPPP on site, with the site map matching today's phase
- ☐ Permit coverage posted where the public can see it
- ☐ Last inspection report signed, with corrective actions closed and dated
- ☐ Rain data since the last inspection
- ☐ Signed delegation of authority for whoever is signing

Notes _____

2 PERIMETER

- ☐ Continuous on every downgradient side, with no gaps at corners or access points
- ☐ Every BMP installed and maintained to the manufacturer specification
- ☐ Silt fence keyed in and backfilled, posts on the downhill side, fabric not torn or overtopped
- ☐ Filter sock in full contact with the ground, staked, and not undermined
- ☐ Sediment removed before it reaches the depth your permit specifies
- ☐ Perimeter still matches where the disturbance actually is today

Notes _____

3 INLETS

- ☐ Every functioning inlet protected, including ones in pavement
- ☐ Protection matched to the inlet type, and seated so flow cannot bypass
- ☐ Sediment cleaned out, and the inlet is not clogged

Notes _____

4 ENTRANCES AND TRACKOUT

- ☐ A stabilized entrance at every point vehicles actually leave, visible, clearly marked, and maintained
- ☐ Geotextile installed under the stone, per the detail
- ☐ Stone still clean rather than packed with mud
- ☐ Any proprietary entrance system used and maintained to the manufacturer specification
- ☐ Wash facility working, if the site requires one
- ☐ Street swept, with no visible track-out on the pavement

Notes _____

Sediment leaving the site is the finding that matters most. Everything above exists to prevent this one.

GENERAL NOTES

5 SLOPES AND STABILIZATION

- ☐ Disturbed areas idle past the permit deadline are stabilized
- ☐ Sediment traps installed and maintained per plan
- ☐ Seeding, mulch, or blankets actually established, not just applied
- ☐ No rills or gullies forming on graded slopes
- ☐ Stockpiles stabilized and ringed with their own perimeter control
- ☐ Slope drains and diversions carrying water where they were designed to, and maintained

Notes _____

6 CONCENTRATED FLOW

- ☐ Ditches and swales lined or stabilized for the flow they carry
- ☐ Check dams keyed into the banks, with flow passing over the center rather than around the ends
- ☐ Basins holding water and sediment, with the outlet clear and sediment below the marker
- ☐ Outfalls and discharge points clear of deposited sediment

Notes _____

7 DEWATERING

- ☐ Discharge run through a filter bag, tank, or basin before it leaves the site
- ☐ Nothing pumped straight to an inlet, a ditch, or receiving water
- ☐ Pump intake held off the bottom so it is not drawing sediment
- ☐ Discharge point stabilized, with velocity broken before it reaches anything
- ☐ Location, duration, and volume logged with the inspection

Notes _____

8 EVERYTHING ELSE THAT IS NOT SEDIMENT

- ☐ Concrete washout designated, signed, lined, and not near capacity
- ☐ Fuel and chemicals in secondary containment
- ☐ Dumpsters covered, with no leachate running out
- ☐ Portable toilets secured and away from inlets and slopes
- ☐ Spill kit on site and stocked

Notes _____

9 WALK THE BOUNDARY LAST

- ☐ Any sediment on the street, in the ditch, or on the neighboring property
- ☐ Anything reaching the receiving water
- ☐ Photograph what you find before and after you fix it

Notes _____

After the Walk

Most violations are written for paperwork, not for mud.

CLOSE THE REPORT

- ☐ Every finding written down, including the ones you fixed on the spot
- ☐ A date and a name against each corrective action
- ☐ Photos filed with the report rather than left on a phone
- ☐ Report signed by someone with authority to sign it
- ☐ Report filed with the SWPPP where an inspector can find it

Notes _____

THE FINDINGS THAT REPEAT

- ☐ Perimeter that stopped matching the disturbance two phases ago
- ☐ Inlet protection installed once and never cleaned out
- ☐ Stabilization applied but never established, then never rechecked
- ☐ A washout that was correct in March and has not been serviced since
- ☐ Inspection reports with corrective actions opened and never closed

Almost none of these are hard. They are all just easy to stop seeing once you have walked the same site forty times.

When a finding repeats over and over, it is time to consider a design or practice change rather than another corrective action.

BEFORE YOU FILE IT

- ☐ Would this report make sense to someone who was not here today
- ☐ Does it show the site as it is, rather than as the plan drew it

Next walk scheduled for _____

Notes _____

NOTES FROM THIS WALK

SITE RECORD

Project _____

Permit number _____

Inspector _____

Date and time _____

Rainfall since last inspection _____

Weather at inspection _____

OPEN ITEMS

1.	FINDING	OWNER	DUE
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			

-OR- LET SOMEONE ELSE WALK IT

This card only works if somebody actually walks it on a cadence. That is the hard part, not the checklist.

ECS Managed Programs take the cadence off your plate. Tier 1 covers most commercial and residential sites with install, maintenance, and inspection. Tier 2, ECS SWPPPWatch™, adds a named compliance manager who walks the site on a defined cadence, for large and fast-moving work. Both carry the inspector relationship and keep documentation inspection-ready.

Our certified teams have run sites from single-digit to four-digit acreage with zero stop-work events and zero documentation failures on inspection.

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