

## 7.12 Temporary Rolled Erosion Control Products (Erosion Control Matting)

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### Description

A Temporary Rolled Erosion Control Product (TREC) is a degradable manufactured material used to stabilize easily eroded areas while vegetation becomes established. Temporary Rolled Erosion Control Products are degradable products composed of biologically, photochemically or otherwise degradable materials. Temporary RECPs consist of erosion control netting, open weave textiles, and erosion control blankets and mattings. These products reduce soil erosion and assist vegetative growth by providing temporary cover from the erosive action of rainfall and runoff while providing soil-seed contact.

### Condition where practice applies:

Temporary rolled erosion control products (matting or blankets) should be used on:

- Areas where erosion potential is high or a failure to establish vegetation is costly such as slopes greater than 3:1, constructed channels or stream banks
- Areas where establishing vegetation is difficult such as southern exposures or areas prone to drying
- Areas of concentrated flow, especially where flows exceeds 3.5 feet per second (e.g near culverts)
- Problem areas with highly erosive soils
- Areas where mulch is difficult to hold in place due to wind or water

## Planning Considerations:

Temporary RECPs can be applied to critical or problem areas to enhance the erosion control as vegetation is being established. Although these materials add cost, they insure more immediate stability following construction reducing grading repairs and a faster greening of projects. Permanent non-degradable rolled erosion control products (turf reinforcement mats) are beyond the scope of this practice, but may be useful where design discharges or runoff exert velocities and shear stresses exceeding the ability of mature vegetation to withstand.

Temporary RECPs provide stable and rapid greening for areas conveying stormwater runoff. Care must be taken to choose the type of RECP, which is most appropriate for the specific needs of a project. Designers must take into account the vegetated and unvegetated velocities and sheer stresses in channel applications. With the abundance of soil stabilization products available, it is impossible to cover all the advantages, disadvantages and specifications of all manufactured RECPs. Therefore, as with many erosion control-type products, there is no substitute for a thorough understanding of the manufacturer's instructions and recommendations and a site visit by a product's designer or plan reviewer to verify appropriateness.

Temporary RECPs should be used to help establish vegetation on previously disturbed slopes - especially slopes of 3:1 or greater. The materials that compose the RECP will deteriorate over time. If used in permanent conveyance channels, designers should consider the system's resistance to erosion as it relates to the type of vegetation planted and the existing soil characteristics. As much as possible during establishment of vegetation, soil stabilization blankets should not be subjected to concentrated flows moving at greater than 3.5 feet/second.

## Design Criteria

Choose a product that will provide the appropriate time period of protection. Allowable velocity range during vegetation establishment should be 3.5 feet per second or less.

Erosion Control Blankets - shall consist of photodegradable plastic netting or biodegradable natural fiber netting that covers and is entwined in a natural organic or man-made mulching material. The mulching material shall consist of wood fibers, wood excelsior, straw, coconut fiber, or man-made fibers, or a combination of the same. The blanket shall be of consistent thickness with the mulching material/fibers evenly distributed over its entire length. Mulching material/fibers must interlock or entwine to form a dense layer, which not only resists raindrop impact, but also will allow vegetation to penetrate the blanket. The mulching material degradation rate must be consistent with the designers desired slope protection time. Temporary Rolled Erosion Control Products (or erosion control blankets) shall meet the specifications that follow.

Table 7.12.1

Material	Maximum Length Of Protection
Straw	10-12 Months
Straw/Coconut	24 Months
Coconut	36 Months
Excelsior	36 Months

Erosion Control Netting - shall consist of a woven natural fiber or extruded geosynthetic mesh used as a component in the manufacture of RECPs, or separately as a temporary RECP to anchor loose fiber mulches.

Open Weave Textile - shall consist of processed natural or polymer yarns woven into a matrix, used to provide erosion control and facilitate vegetation establishment.

**Maintenance:**

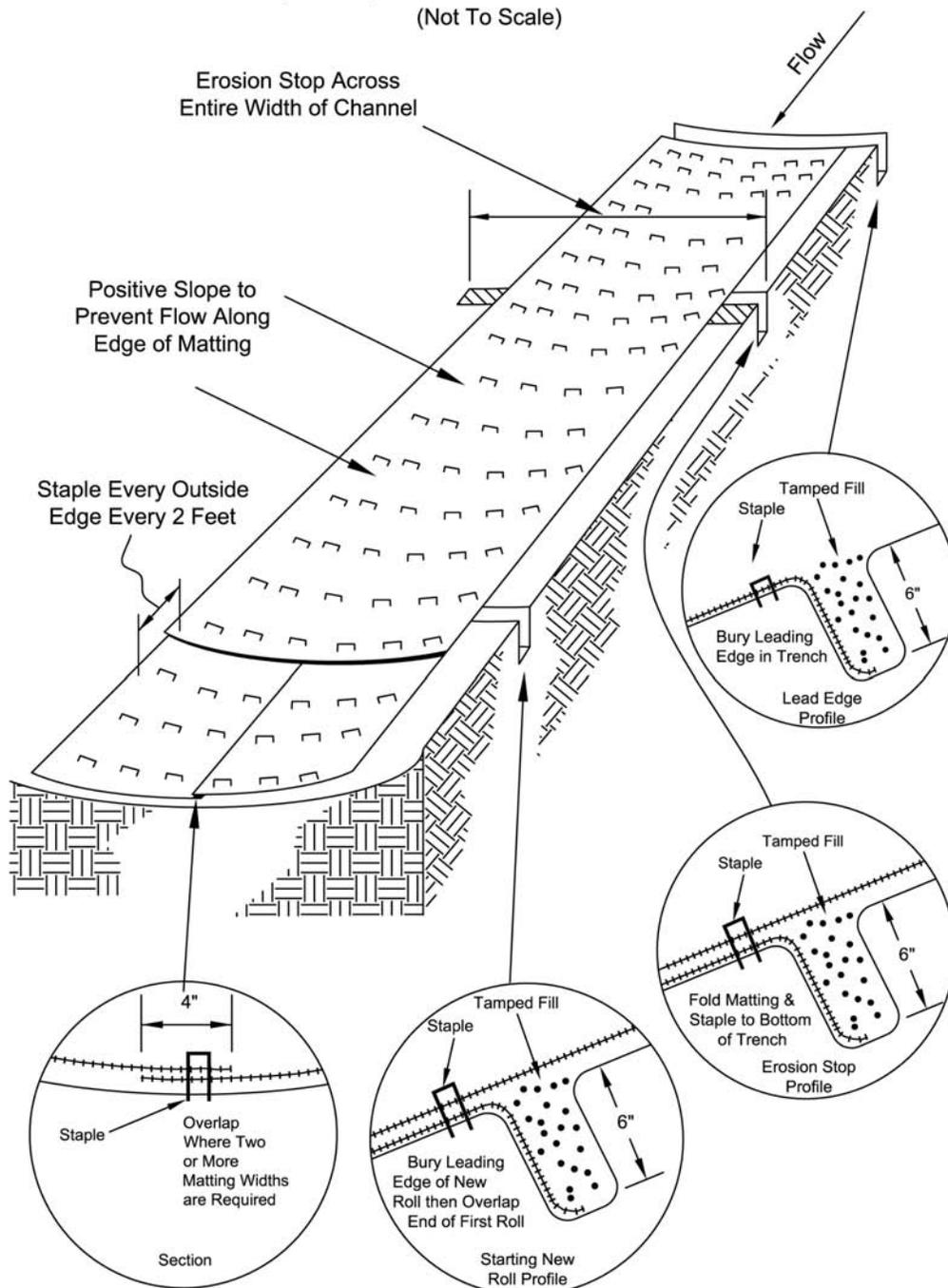
All RECPs should be inspected regularly after installation, especially after storms to check for erosion or undermining of the product. Make needed repairs immediately, addressing rills or gullies that have developed prior to replacing the RECP. In the case erosion repairs, assure that subsequent runoff across the area is dispersed or adequately spread.

**Common Problems/Concerns:**

- Manufacturer's selection and installation recommendations not followed. Results in failure of the RECP.
- Poor contact between soil and the RECP. Results in erosion below the RECP and lower seed germination rates, causing failure.
- Proper stapling guidelines not followed. Results in movement or displacement of RECP.
- Erosion check slots are not used. Results in erosion under the RECP, causing failure.
- Unstable slopes that result in RECP or slope failure. Determine cause of slope failure, correct, and reinstall RECP
- In channels, the width of RECP used is not sufficient, this causes water to flow along the sides of RECP causing erosion. Install RECP up side slopes of ditch line as well as the bottom.

Specifications  
for  
**Temporary Rolled Erosion Control Product**

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Specifications  
for

# Temporary Rolled Erosion Control Product

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1. Channel/Slope Soil Preparation Grade and compact area of installation, preparing seedbed by loosening 2"-3" of topsoil above final grade. Incorporate amendments such as lime and fertilizer into soil. Remove all rocks, clods, vegetation or other debris so that installed RECP will have direct contact with the soil surface.
2. Channel/Slope Seeding Apply seed to soil surface prior to installation. All check slots, anchor trenches, and other disturbed areas must be reseeded. Refer to the Permanent Seeding specification for seeding recommendations.

### Slope Installation

3. Excavate top and bottom trenches (12"x6"). Intermittent erosion check slots (6"x6") may be required based on slope length. Excavate top anchor trench 2' x 3' over crest of the slope.
4. If intermittent erosion check slots are required, install RECP in 6"x6" slot at a maximum of 30' centers or the mid point of the slope. RECP should be stapled into trench on 12" centers.
5. Install RECP in top anchor trench, anchor on 12" spacings, backfill and compact soil.
6. Unroll RECP down slope with adjacent rolls overlapped a minimum of 3". Anchor the seam every 18". Lay the RECP loose to maintain direct soil contact, do not pull taught.
7. Overlap roll ends a minimum of 12" with upslope RECP on top for a shingle effect. Begin all new rolls in an erosion check slot if required, double anchor across roll every 12".
8. Install RECP in bottom anchor trench (12"x6"), anchor every 12". Place all other staples throughout slope at 1 to 2.5 per square yard dependant on slope. Refer to manufacturer's anchor guide.

### Channel Installation

9. Excavate initial anchor trench (12"x6") across the lower end of the project area.
10. Excavate intermittent check slots (6"x6") across the channel at 30' intervals along the channel.
11. Excavate longitudinal channel anchor slots (4"x4") along both sides of the channel to bury the edges. Whenever possible extend the RECP 2'-3' above the crest of channel side slopes.
12. Install RECP in initial anchor trench (downstream) anchor every 12", backfill and compact soil.
13. Roll out RECP beginning in the center of the channel toward the intermittent check slot. Do not pull taught. Unroll adjacent rolls upstream with a 3" minimum overlap (anchor every 18") and up each channel side slope.
14. At top of channel side slopes install RECP in the longitudinal anchor slots, anchor every 18".
15. Install RECP in intermittent check slots. Lay into trench and secure with anchors every 12", backfill with soil and compact.
16. Overlap roll ends a minimum of 12" with upstream RECP on top for a shingling effect. Begin all new rolls in an intermittent check slot, double anchored every 12".
17. Install upstream end in a terminal anchor trench (12"x6"); anchor every 12", backfill and compact.
18. Complete anchoring throughout channel at 2.5 per square yard using suitable ground anchoring devices (U shaped wire staples, metal geotextile pins, plastic stakes, and triangular wooden stakes). Anchors should be of sufficient length to resist pullout. Longer anchors may be required in loose sandy or gravelly soils.