

## 6.6 Filter Sock

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### Description

Filter socks are sediment-trapping devices using compost inserted into a flexible, permeable tube with a pneumatic blower device or equivalent. Filter socks trap sediment by filtering water passing through the berm and allowing water to pond, creating a settling of solids.

### Conditions where practice applies

Filter socks are appropriate for limited drainage areas, requiring sediment control where runoff is in the form of sheet flow or in areas that silt fence is normally considered acceptable. The use of filter socks is applicable to slopes up to 2:1 (H:V), around inlets, and in other disturbed areas of construction sites requiring sediment control. Filter socks also may be useful in areas, where migration of aquatic life such as turtles, salamanders and other aquatic life would be impeded by the use of silt fence.

### Planning Considerations

Filter socks are sediment barriers, capturing sediment by ponding and filtering water through the device during rain events. They may be a preferred alternative where equipment may drive near or over sediment barriers, as they are not as prone to complete failure as silt fence if this occurs during construction. Driving over filter socks is not recommended; but if it should occur, the filter sock should be inspected immediately, repaired and moved back into place as soon as possible.

## Design Criteria

Typically, filter socks can handle the same water flow or slightly more than silt fence. For most applications, standard silt fence is replaced with 12" diameter filter socks. However, proper installation is especially important for them to work effectively.

**Materials** – Compost/mulch used for filter socks shall be weed free and derived from a well-decomposed source of organic matter. The compost shall be produced using an aerobic composting process meeting CFR 503 regulations, including time and temperature data indicating effective weed seed, pathogen and insect larvae kill. The compost shall be free of any refuse, contaminants or other materials toxic to plant growth. Non-composted products are not acceptable.

Materials should meet the following requirements: pH between 5.0-8.0; 100% passing a 2" sieve and a minimum of 70% greater than the 3/8" sieve; moisture content is less than 60%; material shall be relatively free (<1% by dry weight) of inert or foreign man made materials.

**Level Contour** – Place filter socks on the level contour of the land so that flows are dissipated into uniform sheet flow. Flow coming to filter socks must not be concentrated and the filter sock should lie perpendicular to flows.

**Flat Slopes** – When possible, place filter socks at a 5' or greater distance away from the toe of the slopes in order for the water coming from the slopes to maximize space available for sediment deposit (see the illustration). When this is not possible due to construction limitations, additional filter socks may be required upslope of the initial filter sock (see the chart below for appropriate slope lengths and spacing).

**Flow Around Ends** – In order to prevent water flowing around the ends of filter socks, the ends of the filter socks must be constructed pointing upslope so the ends are at a higher elevation.

**Vegetation** – For permanent areas, seeding filter socks is recommended to establish vegetation directly in the sock and immediately in front and back of the sock at a distance of 5 feet. Vegetating on and around the filter socks will assist in slowing down water for filtration creating a more effective longer-term sediment control.

**Drainage Area:** Generally filter socks are limited to ¼ to ½ acre drainage area per 100 foot of the sediment barrier. Specific guidance is given in the chart below.

**Table 6.6.1 Maximum Slope Length Above Filter Sock and Recommended Diameter**

Slope	Ratio (H:V)	8"	12"	18"	24"
0% - 2%	10% - 20%	125	250	300	350
10% - 20%	50:1 - 10:1	100	125	200	250
2% - 10%	10:1 - 5:1	75	100	150	200
20% - 33%	5:1 - 2:1		50	75	100
>50%	>2:1		25	50	75

Note: For larger drainage areas, see standards for temporary diversions, sediment traps and sediment basins.

*Dispersing flow* – Sheet flow and runoff should not exceed berm height or capacity in most storm events. If overflow of the berm is a possibility, a larger filter sock should be installed or an alternative sediment control should be used.

*Maintenance* – Filter socks should be regularly inspected to make sure they hold their shape, are ponding, and allowing adequate flow through. If ponding becomes excessive, filter socks should be replaced. Used filter socks may be cut and the compost dispersed and seeded to prevent captured sediment from being resuspended.

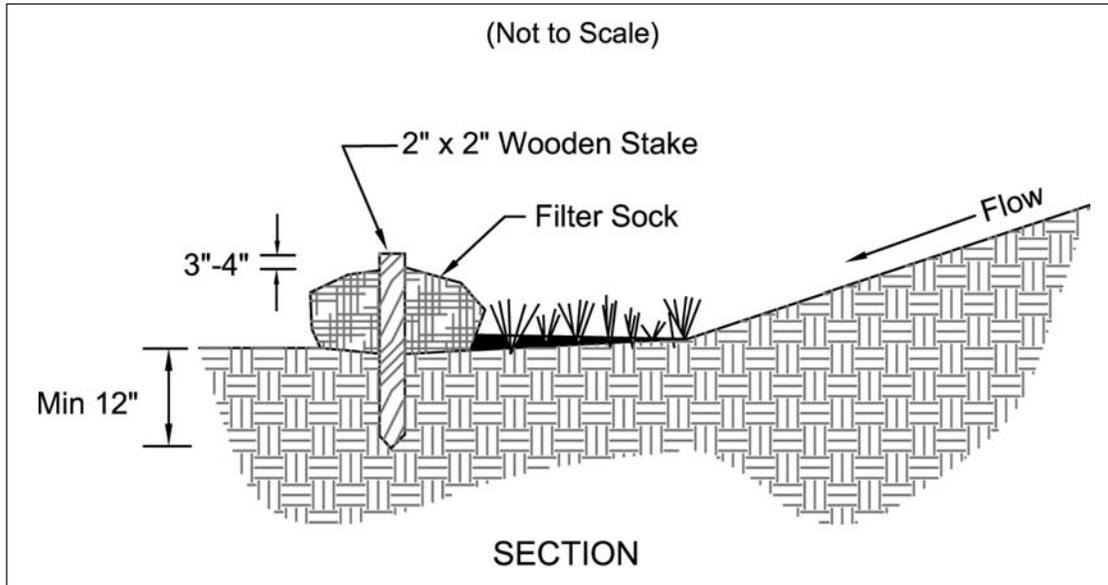
*Removal* – When construction is completed on site, the filter socks may be cut and dispersed with a loader, rake, bulldozer or other device to be incorporated into the soil or left on top of the soil for final seeding. The mesh netting material will be disposed of in normal trash container or removed by the contractor.

## **References**

Standard Specification for Compost for Erosion/Sediment Control (Filter Berms) AASHTO Designation: MP-9 <http://www.iaasla.org/NEWS/FILES/AASHTO-Filterberm6.doc>

Specifications  
for  
**Filter Sock**

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1. Materials – Compost used for filter socks shall be weed, pathogen and insect free and free of any refuse, contaminants or other materials toxic to plant growth. They shall be derived from a well-decomposed source of organic matter and consist of a particles ranging from 3/8" to 2".
2. Filter Socks shall be 3 or 5 mil continuous, tubular, HDPE 3/8" knitted mesh netting material, filled with compost passing the above specifications for compost products.

**INSTALLATION:**

3. Filter socks will be placed on a level line across slopes, generally parallel to the base of the slope or other affected area. On slopes approaching 2:1, additional socks shall be provided at the top and as needed mid-slope.
4. Filter socks intended to be left as a permanent filter or part of the natural landscape, shall be seeded at the time of installation for establishment of permanent vegetation.

5. Filter Socks are not to be used in concentrated flow situations or in runoff channels.

**MAINTENANCE:**

6. Routinely inspect filter socks after each significant rain, maintaining filter socks in a functional condition at all times.
7. Remove sediments collected at the base of the filter socks when they reach 1/3 of the exposed height of the practice.
8. Where the filter sock deteriorates or fails, it will be repaired or replaced with a more effective alternative.
9. Removal – Filter socks will be dispersed on site when no longer required in such as way as to facilitate and not obstruct seedings.