

# The Facts

- ✓ Sedimentation due to accelerated erosion is caused by land-disturbing activities such as agriculture, mining, construction, and forestry
- ✓ Sedimentation fills streams and lakes used for water supply, increasing the cost of water treatment
- ✓ Sedimentation fills streams and lakes used for power generation, increasing the cost of electric power
- ✓ Sedimentation fills streams and lakes, increasing the chances of flooding
- ✓ Sedimentation destroys fish and their food supply from mountain trout streams to coastal sounds
- ✓ Sedimentation destroys wildlife habitat
- ✓ Sedimentation can carry harmful chemicals and pollutants that are used on the land
- ✓ Erosion reduces property values
- ✓ Soil erosion removes the most valuable soils needed to grow food and plants
- ✓ Soil erosion removes soil that cannot be replaced for generations

## How Can You Help?

If you suspect an erosion and sedimentation control violation, report it to the regional engineer of the Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources, Land Quality Section of the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality nearest you.

### Keep Our Waters Sediment Free!

Report Possible Violations to 1-866-STOPMUD  
For additional information visit the Land Quality Section website at:

<https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/energy-mineral-land-resources>



## Soil Erosion Facts

### North Carolinians Are Paying For The Loss Of A Valuable Natural Resource

What can raise the cost of your water or electric bill? What can permanently close your favorite fishing or swimming lake or stream? What can destroy wildlife habitat overnight? What can change your valuable property into a worthless piece of land? Hint – it is the single largest polluter by volume of North Carolina's lakes, rivers and streams – and it's not radioactive waste or spilled chemicals. The answer – sedimentation caused by soil erosion.

### In North Carolina It's Against The Law

Any time an acre or more of land is cleared for commercial, residential, industrial or road construction purposes, a state or local government approved erosion control plan is required. Property owners must submit, and receive, approval of an erosion and sedimentation control plan before beginning a land disturbing activity. The plan must be followed until the land disturbing activity is complete and a permanent groundcover is established. The Sedimentation Pollution Control Act of 1973 also requires the use of erosion control measures to keep sedimentation out of streams and lakes and from washing onto adjacent property. Failure to have an approved plan before the land disturbing activity begins can result in a fine of up to \$5,000 per day. Failure to follow the approved plan can also result in fines up to \$5,000 per day, the issuance of a stop-work order, injunctive relief, restoration or possible criminal convictions.

**NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF ENERGY, MINERAL AND LAND RESOURCES**  
**LAND QUALITY SECTION**  
**REGIONAL OFFICES**



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(828) 296-4500

**Fayetteville Regional Office**

225 Green Street, Suite 714  
Fayetteville, NC 28301-5095  
(910) 433-3300

**Mooresville Regional Office**

610 East Center Avenue  
Suite 301  
Mooresville, NC 28115  
(704) 663-1699

**Raleigh Regional Office**

3800 Barrett Drive  
1628 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27609  
(919) 791-4200

**Washington Regional Office**

943 Washington Square Mall  
Washington, NC 27889  
(252) 946-6481

**Wilmington Regional Office**

127 Cardinal Drive Extension  
Wilmington, NC 28405  
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**Winston-Salem Regional Office**

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