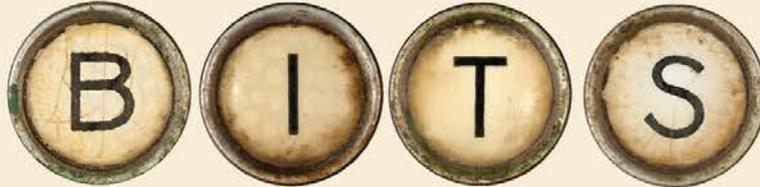




Clark



Building Information, Tips, and Services

January 8, 2016 the new Stormwater Manual was released. It is available on the Clark County Website.

Please familiarize yourself with the required practices.

Building Safety has a Stormwater and Erosion Control Specialist available for your assistance. Janette Chumley may be contacted by phone at 360-397-2375, ext. 5171, by cell at 360-253-0481, or by email at janette.chumley@clark.wa.gov.

A significant item is the requirement for the soil amendment Best Management Practice (BMP).

Many building construction permits require BMP T5.13 "Post-Construction Soil Quality and Depth." Review your site stormwater plan.

Five Steps to Healthy, Absorptive Soil

1. Retain and protect native topsoil and vegetation where practical.

Plan to fence and keep equipment off these protected areas to prevent compaction. Tree roots are especially sensitive.

2. Loosen compacted subsoil, if needed.

Options where there is hardpan or compaction from construction traffic:

- Scarify subsoil 4 inches deep before placing topsoil.
- Rip into the first lift of topsoil to mix with subsoil.
- Rip site soils 12 inches deep before tilling in compost to 8 inch depth.

3. Restore soils that are disturbed during construction.

Construction requires land clearing, so plan to restore soil functions for better stormwater management.

Three options to restore disturbed soils:

- Stockpile and reuse good quality site topsoil, or
- Till 2-3 inches of compost into poor site soils, or
- Bring in 8 inches of compost-amended topsoil (25-35% compost).

Amended soils may be rolled before turf installation to reduce settling and retain good porosity for stormwater infiltration and plant growth.

4. Mulch landscape beds after planting.

Mulching prevents erosion, conserves moisture, prevents weeds, and gives plants a healthy start. Use coarse bark or wood chips. Fine bark can seal the soil.

5. Protect restored soils from erosion and re-compaction.

Prevent runoff from roads or open slopes onto amended soil areas. Compost blankets are an approved erosion control BMP. Use a compost blanket for erosion control during construction, and then till in the compost when it is time to landscape.

Once soils have been amended, keep vehicle traffic off to prevent re-compaction. Installing gravel pads for roads and driveways early in the project, along with fencing or signs, will help funnel traffic and prevent erosion violations.

Loosened, amended soil is easier to plant, it provides much better plant survival, and it prevents expensive call backs.

Working together for the success of your project



Community Development - Building Safety
www.clark.wa.gov/development
building@clark.wa.gov (360) 397-2375



For an alternate format, contact Clark County ADA Compliance Office
Phone: (360) 397-2322 Relay: 711 or (800) 833-6384 Email: ADA@clark.wa.gov