



MNSPECT

HELPING YOU COMPLY WITH THE CODE

235 First Street West • Waconia, MN 55387-1302

Wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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SEDIMENT AND EROSION CONTROL IN WINTER

When construction slows in winter due to frigid temperatures and sites are left unattended for longer periods, rain or runoff can be a threat to nearby water bodies. Although the risk of surface water pollution diminishes significantly when ground is frozen, State rules require that certain practices be implemented for construction sites during the winter season.

Prior to the first heavy snowfall, sites must install Best Management Practices (BMPs) to ensure the open soil stays covered and remains in place when snow melts in the spring. Here are a few of the BMPs that stabilize soil over the winter and help prevent erosion:

- 1) Mulch is used to cover large areas of open soil and has a variety of purposes. Mulch is a soil insulator that retains moisture and helps encourage the growth of native plants and grasses. It helps prevent erosion by holding soil in place. Mulch is generally applied in the form of straw or wood chips and can be a cost-effective option for the winter season. Proper application rates are required for maximum benefit. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) cites 2 tons/acre or 90% coverage as a temporary soil stabilizer. Mulch must be replaced at a frequency that depends upon site slopes and rainfall amounts/durations until the site is permanently stabilized.
- 2) Erosion blankets are mats with single or multiple layers that provide soil stability. Erosion blankets can be synthetic or biodegradable (recommended) and are often used in combination with an approved seed mix. The blanket keeps the soil in place in winter and promotes vegetative growth when used with seed. Erosion blankets are often used on steep slopes and are anchored in the soil. They are generally superior to mulch at preventing erosion.
- 3) Hydraulic soil stabilizers, also referred to as hydromulch, act as glue for the soil and help it stay in place. Hydromulch is sprayed from a large hose and can be applied with or without seed. Hydromulch applied with seed is a much better, more permanent stabilization method. For sites that are pausing for winter, hydromulch without seed can be applied very economically. Without seed, however, hydromulch will wear down after a number of rain events and may need to be re-applied.

The appropriate method for stabilizing soil on a construction site over winter depends upon a variety of site factors. Whatever the method, these practices help prevent pollution of nearby lakes and streams by holding the soil in place until work can continue in spring.

INSPECTOR SPOTLIGHT



TRACY REIMANN

MNSPECT is excited about Tracy joining our team. Tracy will be doing rental inspections, and will also be our primary inspector for Welcome Home Inspections (pre-purchase home inspections). Tracy has over ten years of residential construction experience and is a Certified Home Inspector. He enjoys golfing, hunting, home improvement, fishing, working out, and running. He also likes spending time with his wife and son. When asked about the best part of being an inspector, Tracy said, "It is very gratifying helping others, no matter what I do. Being a home inspector is another way I get to do this." Welcome Tracy!

Contratulations Ermias – our newest Limited Building Official!

Stay connected! Look for our page on [FACEBOOK](#) (MNSPECT – A Full-time Building Code Administration Service Provider) or follow us on Twitter (MNSPECT, LLC)!

Questions about a future project? Call us at 952-442-7520 or e-mail us at info@mnspect.com. Be ready to start your spring project – get your plans in for review SOON!

YOUR CODE PROFESSIONALS:

Administrative Personnel:

Scott Qualle, Designated Building Official Ty Turnquist, Operations Director, Senior Commercial Plans Examiner
Kandis Hanson, Relationship Manager Tracy Montgomery, Office Manager

Inspection Personnel

Dale Engelmann Steve Horsman Steve Maki Dean Mau Ermias Mekonnen Derek Qualle Nick Qualle Tracy Reimann

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