Filter Socks

Source: Soil-Tek

BENEFITS

	L	M	H
Flow Control	■		
Erosion Control			
Sediment Control	■		
Runoff Reduction			
Flow Diversion	■		

Description: A filter sock is a tubular mesh sock filled with a specified 'filter material' that normally is a blend of composted materials or similar organic products, used to slow flow velocity, capture and degrade chemical pollutants, and trap sediment. They are most effective when designed to provide comprehensive water and sediment control throughout a construction site and if used in conjunction with other erosion control practices.

Typical Uses: Perimeter control, inlet protection, slope length reduction, flow diversion for small drainage areas, environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands and waterways, at the edge of gravel parking lots, and general areas under construction.

Advantages:

- Less likely to obstruct wildlife movement and migration than other practices.
- Does not always need to be removed, thereby eliminating removal and disposal costs.
- Can be installed year-round in difficult soil conditions such as frozen or wet ground, on hard compacted soils, near pavements, and in wooded areas, as long as stakes can be driven.
- Relatively low cost.

Limitations:

- Not suitable for areas of concentrated water flow, low points of concentrated runoff or below culvert outlet aprons.
- Availability of suitable sock filtering materials and equipment may be limited.
- Equipment operators may drive over socks, damaging the product.
- Often used improperly as the sole method of sediment control.
- Uneven ground may cause leakage under socks.

Longevity: Until sediment accumulates to one-half the height of the sock

SUDAS Specifications: Refer to Section 9040, 2.04 and 3.07

A. Description/Uses

A filter sock typically consists of a three-dimensional matrix of certified, composted organic material and/or other organic matter to create a filter medium. These various sized particles enclosed in a tubular mesh material slows and filters water to capture sediment and degrade pollutants. Its natural permeability allows water to seep through it while capturing sediment in its pore space and behind its mass, slowing water velocity, and absorbing water pollutants, such as hydrocarbons, nutrients, and bacteria.

The filter socks are typically constructed by filling a mesh tube with organic filter material, although other materials, such as crushed rock or gravel may be used. The sock may be filled by blowing the material into the tube with a pneumatic blower or similar device such as an auger system. Hand filling is not an acceptable means to fill the tube as the material is not compacted in the sock.

B. Design Considerations

1. **Materials:** Several types of materials can be utilized for filter material in the sock. The key to achieving the proper balance between sediment removal and flow-through rate is using a material with the proper particle size. Filter material with a high percentage of fine particles will clog and create a barrier to flow. This will cause water to pond and the pressure could cause the installation to fail. Alternatively, filter materials with particles that are too large will allow flows to pass through the barrier with little or no resistance, eliminating the velocity reduction and sediment trapping benefits of the barrier. Refer to SUDAS Specifications Section 9040 for proper filter material size.

   Filter material normally consists of wood chips or mulch that is screened to remove some of the fines and produce the desired gradation. Crushed stone or gravel is an ideal material to use when the sock will be used on a paved street for inlet protection, or other areas where the sock cannot be staked to hold it in place. The additional weight of the stone helps prevent the sock from moving. Socks can be filled with a fine compost material for applications where the sock is to be vegetated and remain as a permanent feature. This material should only be used in areas where ponding water is acceptable since it has a low flow-through rate, and will quickly plug with sediment.

   The mesh sock used to contain the compost is designed to photo-degrade over time (approximately 18 months).

2. **General Guidelines:** When installed on slopes, filter socks should be installed along the contour of the slope, perpendicular to flow, and staked at 10 foot intervals. The beginning and end of the installation should point slightly up the slope, creating a “J” shape at each end to contain runoff and prevent it from flowing around the ends of the sock. Individual section of filter sock should be limited to 200 foot lengths. This limits the impact if a failure occurs, and prevents large volumes of water from accumulating and flowing to one end of the installation, which may cause undermining or damage to the sock.

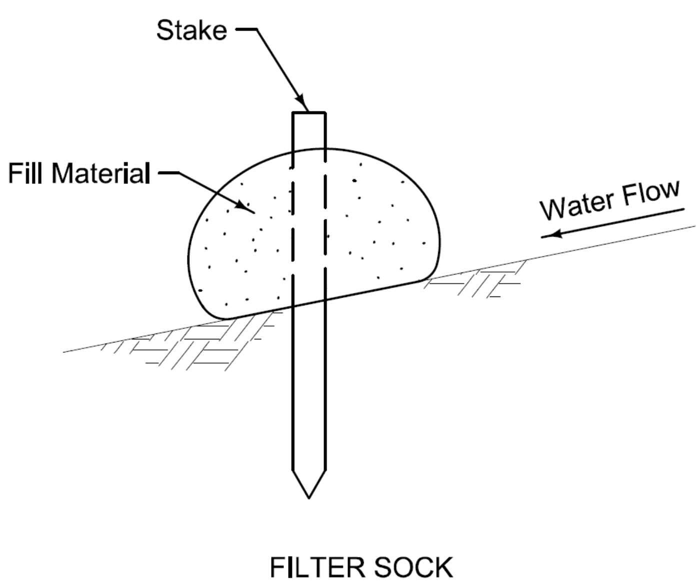
3. **Slope Control:** Filter socks can be installed at regular intervals on long slopes to reduce the effective slope length, and limit the velocity of runoff flowing down the slope. The design layout of filter socks will help prevent concentrated flows from developing, which can cause rill and gully erosion. As a secondary benefit, filter socks installed on slopes can remove suspended sediment from runoff that results from any erosion that has occurred. Allowable slope length for filter socks is dependent upon the size of the sock and the grade of the slope as shown in Table 7E-4.01. For slopes that receive runoff from above, a sock should be placed at the top of the slope to control the velocity of the flow running onto the slope, and to spread the runoff out into sheet flow. On steep or excessively long slopes a number of socks may be placed at regular intervals down the slope.

4. **Sediment Control:** Filter socks remove sediment both by filtering, and by ponding water behind them. When used for sediment control, filter socks should be located to maximize the storage volume created behind the sock.

   A common location to place filter socks for sediment control is at the toe of a slope. When used for this application, the sock should be located as far away from the toe of the slope as practical to ensure that a large storage volume is available for runoff and sediment.

5. **Inlet Protection:** Filter socks may also be used to provide inlet protection. The drainage area to a filter sock around an intake should not exceed 1/4 acre for every 100 feet of sock unless used in conjunction with other erosion and sediment control practices. Filter socks used for inlet protection should be staked at regular intervals, not exceeding 6 to 8 feet, to prevent movement of the sock. For protection of curb inlets in pavement, the length of sock recommended above is not practical. Using short sections of filter socks, such as those for curb intakes in pavement, should be done with caution. Because the length of filter sock is short, it is only able to filter a small volume of runoff. This increases the chances that significant ponding will occur, possibly dislodging the sock, or that the flows will simply bypass or overtop the sock, eliminating any treatment potential. For additional information on inlet protection, refer to Section 7E-20.

Figure 7E-4.01: Typical Filter Sock Installation
(From SUDAS Specifications Figure 9040.102)



C. Application

Filter socks, placed on slopes, should be spaced according to Table 7E-4.01.

Table 7E-4.01: Maximum Filter Sock Spacing

Slope	Sock Diameter			
	8”	***12”***	***18”***	***24”***
2%	85’	100’	100’	100’
5%	50’	75’	100’	100’
10%	40’	50’	85’	100’
5:1	35’	40’	55’	60’
4:1	30’	40’	50’	50’
3:1	30’	35’	40’	40’

As mentioned previously, the material properties of the filter are a significant factor in the performance of the sock. The wood chip product typically used as a filter material may not be readily available in all areas. This may limit the utilization of filter socks as an economical sediment control option in some areas.

D. Maintenance

Accumulated sediment should be removed, or a new sock installed, when it reaches approximately one-half of the sock diameter. If sheet flows are bypassing or breaching the sock during design storm events, it must be repaired immediately and better secured, expanded, enlarged, or augmented with additional erosion and sediment control practices.