

5. Divert clean rainwaters or surface water away from unmade ground
6. Discharge silty water to the foul sewer, with the permission of Severn Trent Water
7. Polyelectrolytes may be used if necessary to improve settlement

REMEMBER....

- To cause pollution is illegal
- If you allow silty water to enter a river or stream you are guilty of causing an offence
- You could face prosecution and a fine of up to £20,000, plus, legal costs and the costs of reinstating fish stocks in some cases
- Pollution can also lead to adverse publicity



WHERE TO CONTACT US



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Tewkesbury GL20 7JG
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NRA

National Rivers Authority
Severn-Trent Region

EMERGENCY NRA HOTLINE

0800 80 70 60

24 hour free emergency telephone line



Awarded for excellence

Telephone this number anywhere in England and Wales to report pollution, poaching, flooding or any sign of damage to the water environment. Your prompt action will help the NRA to protect water, wildlife, people and property.

GUARDIANS OF THE WATER ENVIRONMENT

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NRA Severn-Trent 80



Silt

- AND ITS EFFECTS ON THE RIVER



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



055556



NRA

National Rivers Authority

Guardians of
the Water Environment

SILT- A DIRTY WORD!

If you carry out any works that generate silty or discoloured waters, such as those listed below, then please read on....

Activities which can produce silty water include:

- work carried out on gas, electricity and water mains
- road cutting
- road works generally
- pumping out of excavations
- dewatering
- demolition works
- development sites
- construction sites
- culvert cleaning
- bridge works
- drain maintenance
- concreting
- sand blasting

It is essential that all employees and sub-contractors are aware of problems caused by silty waters. If in doubt contact your local National Rivers Authority Office. (See back cover for details).

SILT AND ITS EFFECTS....

By causing silty water to enter a river or stream, or a surface water drain that leads to a river or stream, you are causing **pollution**. You may think that silty water is not harmful to the river. In fact, **silt causes lasting damage to river life**.

- **silt** can clog the gills of fish, causing them to die by suffocation
- **silt** destroys fish spawning sites
- **silt** injures fish by its abrasive action
- **silt** destroys insect habitats on the bed of the river, thereby removing the source of food for fish
- **silt** coats the leaves of aquatic plants, limiting their growth
- **silt** can build up causing blockages, which could lead to flooding
- **silt** can often be oily, especially from road and construction sites, causing further pollution
- **silt** is **unsightly** and will be reported to the NRA by members of the public

HOW TO AVOID CAUSING POLLUTION BY SILT...

If silty water may be produced as a result of work you intend to carry out, you must contact the NRA for advice (See back cover for details). Silty waters can be generated as a result of rainfall on stripped ground.

One or more of the following methods can be used to avoid pollution problems from silt.

1. Silty water can be sprayed onto land to soakaway
2. Sandbags can be placed around surface water drains and water gullies to stop silty water from getting to the river
3. Settlement tanks or lagoons can be used to settle out the silt particles. The clean water may then be discharged to the river, with the permission of the NRA
4. By filtering the silty water through a suitable membrane (i.e. geotextiles) clean water may then be discharged to the river, with the permission of the NRA

