



THINK AHEAD, BUILD SMARTER

A Developer's Pre-Construction Checklist for Stormwater Protection

Pre-construction planning helps identify risks, navigate permitting requirements, and build compliance into your site from the start. Skipping this step can result in erosion, pollution, costly delays, and enforcement penalties.

Use this checklist to stay proactive and protect your project, and your waterways.



Coordinate with permitting authorities.

Know whether your site requires local, state, or federal stormwater permits (e.g., SWPPP, NPDES).



Map sensitive areas.

Identify wetlands, buffer zones, storm drains, and other regulated features early.



Plan phased construction.

Limit exposed soil and reduce runoff risk by sequencing your work.



Budget for erosion & sediment control.

Include time, materials, and staff for BMPs in your project schedule.



Designate a trained point person.

Assign someone to oversee BMP implementation and inspections.



Document everything.

Maintain logs of inspections, corrective actions, and application rates (for things like stabilization).



Prepare for weather.

Plan for seasonal storms, wet conditions, and weather-related delays.



More resources on construction stormwater management in Tompkins County:
tcstormwater.org/contractor-trainings/



BMPs for Pre-Construction Planning

Most of the Best Management Practices (BMPs) identified below are non-structural and cost little or nothing to implement. This listing is not all-inclusive and other non-structural and structural BMPs can be implemented to further reduce the potential of contributing to stormwater pollution.

DO'S

- Identify storm drain locations and sensitive environmental features.
- Plan your site to minimize grading and disturbance.
- Budget time and resources for erosion and sediment control.
- Designate a trained staff person to oversee BMP implementation.
- Coordinate with local permitting authorities early in the process.
- Prepare for weather delays and wet season risks.

DON'TS

- Start construction without a site-specific erosion control plan.
- Ignore slope, drainage, or runoff paths during layout.
- Assume contractors or subs understand stormwater requirements.
- Delay inspections or site walkthroughs until after problems arise.
- Stockpile materials near inlets or unprotected areas.
- Treat pre-construction as an afterthought—build BMPs into your plan.



Questions about stormwater on your construction project?
contact Angel Hinickle: ahinickle@tompkins-co.org
or visit tcstormwater.org