

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1- How much are grading permit fees? Refer to the fee schedules:
 - Unincorporated Guilford County

http://www.co.guilford.nc.us/planning_cms/downloads/others/erosion/Grading_Uninc.pdf
 - Incorporated Guilford County

http://www.co.guilford.nc.us/planning_cms/downloads/others/erosion/Grading_Inc.pdf

- 2- What is exempt from Guilford County's Erosion Control Jurisdiction?
 - Agriculture (Bona Fide Farms (see Bulletin))
http://www.co.guilford.nc.us/planning_cms/downloads/bulletins/Bulletin%20No.%20P11%20BONA%20FIDE%20FARMS.pdf
 - Forestry (if BMP's are properly used coordinate with Forest Service)
<http://www.dfr.state.nc.us/contacts/Guilford.htm>
 - Government Property (City, County, State, or Federal)
 - Entities with power of eminent domains such as utility companies, NCDOT, etc.
 - Mining

- 3- Who can provide an erosion control surety?

The owner is responsible for securing the surety. Samples are available online at:

http://www.co.guilford.nc.us/planning_cms/erosion.html

Certified or cashiers check is also acceptable.

- 4- How much surety is required for a project?

\$1,500.00 x the acres disturbed (to the nearest 1/10 of an acre).
\$2,000.00 x acres disturbed for landfills (to the nearest 1/10 of an acre).

- 5- What is needed in order to obtain a grading permit?
 - A completed grading permit and financial responsibility form:

http://www.co.guilford.nc.us/planning_cms/downloads/others/erosion/Grading%20Permit%20Financial%20Resp%20Form_%20Rev.%20031908.pdf
 - Surety provided by the owner
 - Grading review fee submitted
 - Erosion Control Plan approved by the jurisdiction.

- 6- How many copies of a grading/erosion control plan should be submitted in order to start the review process?

Four (4) copies to the Planning and Development Dept. and one (1) copy to the Guilford County Soil and Water Conservation District, located at 3309 Burlington Rd. Greensboro, NC 27405 Phone [\(336\) 375-5401](tel:3363755401)

- 7- What size storm is erosion control devices designed to handle?
Devices should handle the 10 year storm or 5.2 inches of rain within a 24 hour period.
- 8- When do I need a grading permit?
If the total disturbance exceeds one (1) acre. Guilford County issues Grading Permits in the following areas: Jamestown, Oak Ridge, Pleasant Garden, Sedalia, Stokesdale, Summerfield, and Whitsett. An erosion control plan may be necessary if the disturbance is within Tier 1 or Tier 2 of a Watershed Critical Area.
- 9- Who investigates drainage complaints and enforces any necessary corrections?
The Erosion Control Section investigates citizens' complaints but drainage problems are typically a private matter between property owners. We can make suggestions and recommendations but we do not enforce corrections, unless it is a violation of Guilford County Development Ordinance or Town regulations. (See drainage bulletin at the link below).
http://www.co.guilford.nc.us/planning_cms/downloads/others/erosion/Drainage%20Bulletin.pdf
- 10- Who reviews road construction plans and determines when roads actually become public?
Contact the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Paul Ingram, [\(336\) 334-3161](tel:3363343161), P.O. Box 14996, 1584 Yanceyville Street, Greensboro, NC 27415-4996.
- 11- Who makes decisions regarding wetland issues?
Contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, John Thomas, [\(919\) 876-8441](tel:9198768441), or the NC Division of Water Quality, Sue Homewood, [\(336\) 771-5000](tel:3367715000).
- 12- When does a pond come under the North Carolina Dam Safety Law?
When a dam is over 15' tall and the pond stores over ten (10) acre feet of water and is accessed as high hazard class (significant loss of property or life downstream i.e. house). Contact the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources at [\(336\) 771-5000](tel:3367715000), 585 Waightown St., Winston-Salem, NC 27101-2241.
- 13- What agency is in charge of erosion control at the State Level?
Contact Matt Gantt [\(336\) 771-5000](tel:3367715000) with the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Land Quality Section. 585 Waightown Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101-2241.

- 14- What agency is in charge of erosion control for the City of Greensboro?
City Inspection Department, Contact: Ken Cook (336) 373-2158.
<http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/departments/Engineering/developer/building/>
- 15- Who handles the erosion control for the City of High Point?
City Engineering Department, Contact: Brian Sullivan (336) 883-3199.
http://www.highpointnc.gov/cengr/erosion_control.cfm
- 16- Who has jurisdiction in the extra territorial limits of both the City of Greensboro and the City of High Point?
Greensboro has jurisdiction in their extra territorial limits and High Point has jurisdiction in theirs.
- 17- In what parts of Guilford County does the County Planning Department have erosion control jurisdiction?
In all of Guilford County including incorporated towns except Gibsonville, Greensboro, High Point, and the Piedmont Triad Airport Authority.
- 18- How long does it take to obtain a grading permit in Guilford County?
It depends on how long it takes the plans design engineer to correct the plans, how soon the owner can obtain a surety, and the workload in the Planning Department. Typically turnaround time on plan review is ten (10) days. The fastest a plan can be issued is one (1) week from the date of the initial plan submittal.
- 19- Who should grading/erosion control plans be submitted to?
Submit plans to Earl Davis, Erosion Control Section Chief, Guilford County Planning Department, 400 West Market Street, P.O. Box 3427, Greensboro, NC 27402.
- 20- What is the process for assessing civil penalties against a property owner?
We typically try to obtain voluntary compliance. If corrections are needed on a project, we end an inspection report asking for corrections to be made (usually seven (7) days depending on the violation, weather, etc). If this doesn't work, a Notice of Violation is written giving a reasonable amount of time to make corrections (usually seven (7) days depending on the violation, weather, etc). If this doesn't work, a civil penalty may be assessed after the owner has been contacted by Earl Davis.
- 21- Why hasn't the silt fence been installed?
Silt fence should only be installed in areas of sheet flow draining less than ¼ acre per 100 feet of silt fence.

22- When can temporary erosion control devices be removed?

Devices can only be removed when approved by an Erosion Control Inspector. This is typically done when the area draining to the device has been stabilized.

23- Who is responsible for re-establishing shoulders and ditch lines that were once seeded and mulched and disturbed by utility companies?

The party who is financially responsible for the grading project is ultimately held responsible.

24- Who is responsible for questions relating to illegal dumping and landfills?

Questions should be directed to the Guilford County Planning Department at (336) 669-3523 or through the website at:
http://www.co.guilford.nc.us/planning_cms/waste.html

25- Why are single family residential home builders not required to install a silt fence around a lot while under construction?

Guilford County does not require this unless we receive complaints and the sedimentation control ordinance is violated, we will require erosion and sediment control devices to be installed by the owner to achieve compliance. All property owners are responsible for keeping sediment on site during any construction activity. Please call (336) 641-3803 if you have any questions regarding soil and erosion control requirements.

NOTE: For additional information please visit the Guilford County Erosion Control Website at:

http://www.co.guilford.nc.us/planning_cms/erosion.html