

Section 171—Silt Fence

171.1 General Description

This work includes furnishing, installing, and removing a water permeable filter fabric fence to remove suspended particles from drainage water.

171.1.01 Definitions

General Provisions 101 through 150.

171.1.02 Related References

A. Standard Specifications

[Section 163—Miscellaneous Erosion Control Items](#)

[Section 700—Grassing](#)

[Section 862—Wood Posts and Bracing](#)

[Section 881—Fabrics](#)

[Section 894—Fencing](#)

B. Referenced Documents

ASTM D 3786

ASTM D 4355

ASTM D 4632

ASTM D 4751

[GDT 87](#)

[QPL 36](#)

171.1.03 Submittals

General Provisions 101 through 150.

171.2 Materials

Materials shall meet the requirements of the following Specifications:

Material	Section
Filter Fabrics	881
Fencing	894
Wood Posts and Bracing	862

Conditions during Project construction will affect the quantity of the silt fence to be installed.

The Engineer may increase, decrease, or eliminate the quantity at his or her direction. Variations in quantity are not changes in details of construction or in the character of the work.

For Type A, B, and C fences, use fabric as specified in [Subsection 881.2.07, “Silt Fence Filter Fabric.”](#)

171.2.01 Delivery, Storage, and Handling

During shipment and storage, wrap the fabric in a heavy-duty covering that will protect the cloth from sunlight, mud, dust, dirt, and debris. Do not expose the fabric to temperatures greater than 140 °F (60 °C).

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When installed, the Engineer will reject the fabric if it has defects, rips, holes, flaws, deterioration, or damage incurred during manufacture, transportation, or storage.

171.3 Construction Requirements

171.3.01 Personnel

General Provisions 101 through 150.

171.3.02 Equipment

General Provisions 101 through 150.

171.3.03 Preparation

General Provisions 101 through 150.

171.3.04 Fabrication

General Provisions 101 through 150.

171.3.05 Construction

Install the silt fence according to this Specification, as shown on the Plans, or as directed by the Engineer.

A. Install Silt Fence

1. Install silt fence by either of the following methods:
 - a. **Excavated Trench Method**
Excavate a trench 4 to 6 in (100 to 150 mm) deep using equipment such as a trenching machine or motor grader. If equipment cannot be operated on the site, excavate the trench by hand.
 - b. **Soil Slicing Method**
Create a mechanical slice in the soil 8 to 12 in (200 to 300 mm) deep to receive the silt fence. Ensure that the width of the slice is not more than 3 in (75 mm). Mechanically insert the silt fence fabric into the slice in a simultaneous operation with the slicing that ensures consistent depth and placement.
2. Install the first post at the center of the low point (if applicable). Space the remaining posts a maximum of 6 ft (1.8 m) apart for Types A and B fence and 4 ft (1.2 m) apart for Type C fence.
3. Bury the posts at least 18 in (450 mm) into the ground. If this depth cannot be attained, secure the posts enough to prevent the fence from overturning from sediment loading.
4. Attach the filter fabric to the post using wire, cord, staples, nails, pockets, or other acceptable means.
 - a. **Staples and Nails (Wood Posts):** Evenly space staples or nails with at least five per post for Type A fence and four per post for Type B fence.
 - b. **Pockets:** If using pockets, and they are not closed at the top, attach the fabric to a wood post using at least one additional staple or nail, or to a steel post using wire.
Ensure that the additional attachment is within the top 6 in (150 mm) of the fabric.
 - c. Install the filter fabric so that 6 to 8 in (150 to 200 mm) of fabric is left at the bottom to be buried. Provide a minimum overlap of 18 in (450 mm) at all splice joints.
 - d. For Type C fences, attach the filter fabric to the top of a woven wire support fence at the midpoint between posts.
5. Install the fabric in the trench so that 4 to 6 in (100 to 150 mm) of fabric is against the side of the trench with 2 to 4 in (50 to 100 mm) of fabric across the bottom in the upstream direction.

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6. Backfill and compact the trench to ensure that flow cannot pass under the barrier. When the slice method is used, compact the soil disturbed by the slice on the upstream side of the silt fence first, and then compact the downstream side.

B. Remove the Silt Fence

1. Keep the silt fence in place unless the Engineer directs. A removed silt fence may be used at other locations if the Engineer approves of its condition.
2. After removing the silt fence, return the area to a pleasing appearance. Seed and mulch the area according to [Section 700](#).
3. When installing a silt fence across a waterway that produces significant runoff, place a settling basin in front of the fence to handle the sediment load, if required. Construct a suitable sump hole or storage area according to [Section 163](#).

171.3.06 Quality Acceptance

Approved silt fence is listed in [OPL 36](#). Approved fabrics must consistently exceed the minimum requirements of this Specification as verified by the Office of Materials and Research. The Office of Materials and Research will remove fabric that fails to meet the minimum requirements of this specification from the QPL until the products' acceptability has been reestablished to the Department's satisfaction.

At the time of installation, the Engineer will reject the fabric if it has defects, rips, holes, flaws, deterioration, or damage incurred during manufacture, transportation, or storage.

171.3.07 Contractor Warranty and Maintenance

Maintain the silt fence until the Project is accepted or until the fence is removed. Also, remove and dispose of the silt accumulations at the silt fence.

Remove and replace any deteriorated filter fabric that reduces the effectiveness of the silt fence.

Repair or replace any undermined silt fence at no additional cost to the Department.

171.4 Measurement

The quantity of silt fence to be paid for is the actual number of linear feet (meters) of silt fence, measured in place from end post to end post of each separate installation. The silt fence must be complete and accepted.

171.4.01 Limits

General Provisions 101 through 150.

171.5 Payment

Silt fence Type A, B, or C measured as defined in [Subsection 171.4, "Measurement,"](#) is paid for at the Contract Unit Price bid per linear foot (meter).

Payment is full compensation for the following:

- Furnishing materials
- Erecting and maintaining the fence
- Removing accumulated silt as described in [Subsection 171.3.07, "Contractor Warranty and Maintenance"](#)
- Dressing and grassing, when required
- Removing the fence, when required

Payment for this Item is made as follows:

- Seventy-five percent of the Contract Price bid per linear foot (meter) is paid when each fence is complete in place.

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- Twenty-five percent is paid at removal or acceptance.

If the silt fence must be repaired or removed, perform the work at no additional cost to the Department.

Payment will be made under:

Item No. 171	Silt fence, type__	Per linear foot (meter)
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171.5.01 Adjustments

General Provisions 101 through 150.