# Chapter 2

# Site Preparation

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# Construction Exit Pad (CEP)

## Description

An aggregate pad that removes mud and caked soil from the tires of construction vehicles. It is located where traffic will be leaving a construction site and moving directly onto a public road or street.

## Installation

- Begin by removing all vegetation and other unsuitable material from the foundation area.
- Grade and crown the area for positive drainage.
- Utilize a diversion to direct any surface flow away from the construction exit pad.
- Install pipe under the pad if needed to maintain drainage ditches along public roads.
- Divert all construction exit pad runoff and drainage to a sediment trap or basin.
- Usually, an 8 oz. non-woven geotextile filter fabric is placed on the graded foundation before placing the aggregate.
- Place specified aggregate size to lines and grade shown on plans. Leave smooth and sloped for drainage. If aggregate size is not specified, use ALDOT Coarse Aggregate No. 1 (most of the aggregate should be 2.5" – 3.5").
- If dimensions are not specified, pads are generally 50' x 20'. Adjustments in size should be made to accommodate site conditions.
- At home sites, the construction exit pad aggregate can often be subsequently used as a foundation for the concrete driveway.

## Maintenance

- Remove large chunks of mud or caked soil from construction exit pad daily.
- Inspect aggregate pad and sediment disposal area weekly and after storm events or heavy use.
- Reshape pad as needed for drainage and runoff control.
- Top-dress with clean specified stone as needed to maintain effectiveness.
- Immediately remove mud or sediment tracked or washed onto public road by sweeping or manual removal (DO NOT wash material into nearby storm drains).
- Remove unneeded exit pad materials from areas where permanent vegetation will be established.

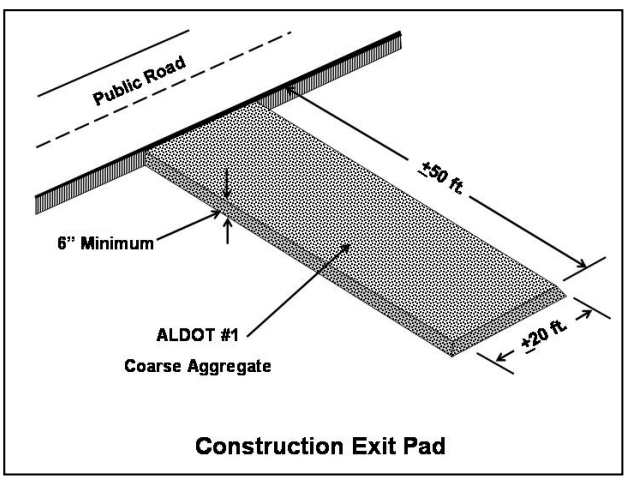


**Figure CEP-1 Typical Construction Exit Pad.**

# Topsoiling (TSG)

## Description

The removal of the desirable soil surface at a site prior to construction and using it on areas to be vegetated. Topsoiling a site usually improves the quality of the plant growth medium at the site and increases the likelihood of successful plant establishment and performance.

## Installation

- Begin by identifying on the design plan the area to be stripped, the depth of soil to be removed, the storage area and the areas to utilize topsoil. If a plan is not available, obtain the aid of a qualified design professional.
- Schedule stripping to precede or be done concurrently with land grading.
- Prior to disturbance, install silt fence or other sediment barrier where necessary to minimize sediment movement from stockpile site.
- Remove and dispose of stumps, roots, trash, noxious weeds, and soils containing toxic chemicals according to locally accepted procedures and regulations.
- Stockpile topsoil at the site(s) identified in the plan or by the design professional. Generally, side slopes of the stockpile should not exceed 2:1.
- In the absence of plan details, locate the stockpile so that natural drainage is not obstructed and avoid stockpiling on steep slopes or near waterbodies, wetlands, or storm drain

inlets.

- Protect stockpile as specified in the design plan. In the absence of details in the plan, use temporary seeding as soon as possible and not more than 13 working days after formation of stockpile (see Temporary Seeding practice).
- Mulching may be substituted for temporary seeding on stockpiles that will be used within 2 months (see Mulching practice).
- If stockpiles will not be used within 12 months, they should be stabilized by permanent vegetation to control erosion and weed growth (see Permanent Seeding practice).
- Immediately prior to spreading topsoil for reuse, adjust the pH of the subsoil with lime if needed and loosen the subgrade of the site to receive the topsoil by disking or scarifying to a depth of at least 2" to ensure bonding of the topsoil and subsoil.
- Uniformly spread topsoil to the depth specified in the design plan, as specified by a qualified professional or to a minimum of 4". For long-term growth of vegetation without irrigation, minimum soil depth (subsoil and topsoil) should be 8" to 12" over loose sand or rock fragments. Soil depth of 24" is needed over bedrock.
- Maintain grades shown in the construction plan.

## Maintenance

- Inspect areas that received topsoil after rainstorms until vegetation is established.
- Repair eroded or damaged areas and revegetate.
- Repair sloughing on steep slopes by removing the topsoil, roughening the subgrade, and

respreading topsoil.

- Consult with a qualified design professional if drainage (wetness caused by seepage) or shallowness to bedrock (less than 24”) is involved.

Figure TSG-1 Topsoil to be Spread.

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