



City of Portage
Building Department
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Site Clearing and Erosion Control Policy

Clearing and disposal of trees, brush, vegetative waste and spoils

The practice of clearing off a construction site and placing the debris and spoils onto another lot is in violation of the Portage Municipal Code. Too often the piles of debris and spoils are left indefinitely and create a public nuisance.

Contractors beginning construction of a new structure or an addition to an existing structure must remove from the site and properly dispose of all trees, brush, vegetative waste and spoils cleared off the construction site before beginning framing the walls of the structure or addition. An inspection must be called for to verify compliance.

Erosion control during the construction process

The Federal Government through the MS4 Program mandates the installation and maintenance of erosion control measures where natural vegetation has been disturbed and sediment runoff into the waterways is possible. All too often, contractors fail to install and/or maintain erosion control measures on their construction sites to prevent the runoff of sediment and pollutants into the storm sewers and thereby our waterways and Lake Michigan. Failure to control sediment is also a violation of the Portage Municipal Code.

Contractors beginning construction requiring the disturbance of existing vegetation must install appropriate erosion control measures before digging and maintain the control measures until the site is revegetated wherever the possibility exists for sediment runoff reaching storm sewers, water ways or another property. Seeding to revegetate must be accompanied with mulching.

Failure to comply with this policy will lead to the issuance of Stop Work Orders, fines/citations, delays in the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy and/or other legal action.