

MAP CODE  
**TARP**

# TARPS

**USE**

Dust  
Erosion  
Stormwater

## What

- A piece of woven fabric or plastic sheeting material (tarpaulin) used to temporarily cover soil, raw materials, equipment or activities to provide protection from wind and rain.

## Purpose

- To prevent or reduce erosion, sloughing, dust and muddied stormwater runoff.



## Where

- YES:** Stockpiled raw material, specialty items, benches and exposed topsoil, overburden, idle equipment.

## Materials, Equipment & Costs

- Tarpaulins made of synthetic fabric of vinyl, vinyl-coated polyester or polyethylene; canvas; pins or stakes; ropes or ties; weights (could be bricks, tires, sandbags, etc.).
- ✂ Labour to cover subject area or object and secure tarp.
- \$ Low.

## Plans and Specs

- Black, green or brown tarps will reduce negative visual impact, as opposed to more vivid orange or blue colours commonly available.
- Tarps should be put in place as quickly as possible to minimize erosion and dust.
- Tarps need to be secured using stakes, tie downs, tires, etc., to avoid being blown away by the wind.
- When using several tarps to cover an area, place the lowest tarp first and lay subsequent tarps in an overlapping shingle fashion to ensure water is unable to seep through at the edges.
- Tarps are a short term, temporary solution. If long-term protection is required, consider using vegetation and silt fences to control stormwater erosion and dust.

## **Maintenance**

- Deterioration will occur due to sunlight and wind. Regular inspections should be conducted to ensure that no holes or gaps are present.
- Tarps should be repaired or replaced if they become damaged.

## **Sources**

King County Washington (1999): **Stormwater Pollution Control Manual**; Department of Natural Resource, Water and Land Division, URL <<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/dss/spcm.htm>>, October 2001.