



## Harford Soil Conservation District

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### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT FILL DIRT

Have you ever been approached about receiving fill dirt? You start thinking about filling ruts in a field or leveling off an area for a new structure and you say, "Sure I can use some fill". But do you know the rules about bringing fill onto your farm?

By Maryland State Law, any disturbance over 5,000 square feet or borrow/fill area greater than 100 cubic yards require a sediment and erosion control (SEC) plan be prepared to protect the site. Then you remember – agricultural operations are exempt from the grading permit process. The grading permit process is part of the Subdivision Regulation of Harford County with an exemption for agricultural activities. So, you figure there is no problem.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) does not reference the use of the property for an exemption but the activity that causes the disturbance. MDE states that agricultural land

management practices such as plowing, disking, cultivating, planting and harvesting do not require a SEC plan as well as NRCS approved Best Management Practices. Now it's starting to become unclear if you can take the fill dirt.



There are parameters that will allow the Harford Soil Conservation District (SCD) to assist a landowner to receive fill dirt over the 100 cubic yard limit. An application to receive fill to an agricultural operation is required to be submitted to the Harford SCD. Information will be added to the Soil and Water Quality Conservation Plan to document the activity. Harford SCD will prepare the sediment and erosion control plan for the fill material up

to the following limits:

- 1,000 cubic yards (approximately 100 dump truck loads)
- 1 acre of disturbance
- 10 feet of vertical change

If more than 1,000 cubic yards are needed by the landowner, a sediment and erosion control plan will require a private consultant to prepare, sign and seal the drawing to be submitted to the Harford SCD for review and approval of the plan. Any approved location to receive fill dirt will be inspected by the Harford SCD.

Be sure to contact the Harford SCD before agreeing to receive any fill dirt.