



SEDIMAT® - Installation

SEDIMAT should be installed flat on the streambed immediately before instream activities are scheduled to occur. They should be placed as close to the disturbance as possible without getting in the way of operations. It is wise to discuss mat placement with equipment operators, foremen, etc., so the mats do not interfere with or become damaged by construction equipment. The mats may be held in place with either stones or stakes. Make sure that the upstream edge of each mat is in contact with the streambed. If the upstream edge is not tight to the streambed, sediment moving along the bed will simply pass under the mats and not be trapped. A number of flat stones laid along the upstream edge of the mats works well at holding the edge of the mat down.

The number of mats that protect a site will depend upon stream width, water velocity, distribution of the sediment fines, and the amount of disturbance. We recommend the installation of mats all the way across the stream. Faster moving water requires a greater area of coverage than slower moving water. Streambeds with silt and clay instead of sand and gravel require more coverage. SEDIMAT is designed primarily for coarse-bottomed streams and is most effective at trapping sand.

SEDIMAT may be placed either parallel or perpendicular to the current. If the current below the work area is too fast move the mats downstream to the first slow spot.

Sand will pass through the excelsior and into the burlap, where it forms a sand lens. Additional sand is trapped in the excelsior and forms sand bars on top of the mats when the interiors are full. At water velocities of greater than 3 fps, the current is too strong for sand bar formation. Individual mats can absorb 1,000 lbs of sediment. When silt settles out on top of the mats, removal of the mats must be done with care to avoid displacing the silt.

Once removed, the mats can be arranged burlap side down on a disturbed bank and staked in place. Seeding and mulching can be done right over the top of SEDIMAT. The seed will germinate in the mats and send roots down into the soil below. The wooden stakes may be cut away with a knife after the mats have been removed.