

Erosion Control Mix



What's Erosion Control Mix?

Erosion Control Mix (ECM) is made of partially decomposed bark, sand, gravel, stone, and wood fragments. The mixture locks together to become a heavy protective layer to prevent the underlying soil from eroding while retaining moisture, controlling weeds, and improving the soil.



Purchasing

ECM can be obtained from a local contractor, gravel pit, or sometimes your local transfer station. It can also be called Stump Grindings, Slope Stabilizer, Erosion Control Mulch, Superhumus, Forest Flume, or Wood Waste. ECM can come in a fine grade for landscaping and a standard “chunky” grade for slopes and paths. Be sure to check out the product prior to purchasing.

Installation

Permitting may be required if the project is nearby a waterbody.

Use ECM on paths, slopes, or between plantings **where bare soil is present**.

1. If using for landscaping, lay down wet newspaper or brown cardboard to act as a weed barrier.
2. Apply 3” to 4” thick and completely cover the weed barrier or bare soil.
3. Allow 1” to 2” of space around the base of plants.

Maintenance

- Inspect after heavy rain and replace as needed.
- Replenish every few years due to decomposition.

Other Covers

In places where native vegetation and ECM are unable to be used, consider these cover options:

- **Pine Needles:** Work best when left where they fall to build up the soil duff layer.
- **Bark Mulch & Wood Chips:** Lighter than ECM and erodes easier. Use products without dyes or chemicals as they can leach into the water.
- **Crushed Stone or Pea Stone:** Depending on the distance to the water, stone may not be allowed by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection or municipality.



Recommended Uses

It is not recommended to apply ECM on slopes greater than 2:1 (50%) or places with concentrated water flow.

