



Temporary Drainage Swale



Photo Source: Colorado Department of Transportation



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One of the water quality Best Management Practices available for erosion control during CDOT highway construction is the temporary drainage swale. This BMP is used to intercept, divert and collect surface runoff and convey it to acceptable outlet points. Temporary drainage swales typically consist of an excavated, stabilized channel with a lining and riprap.

Temporary swales are not intended as sediment traps, and should be maintained by removing sediment and debris after rainfall events. These swales should be sized in accordance with the procedures provided in CDOT's Drainage Design Manual.

Guidance: CDOT Erosion Control and Stormwater Quality Guide, Chapter 5



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