

WOODCHIP – BIODEGRADABLE



WHAT IS A WOODCHIP BIODEGRADABLE BLANKET USED FOR?

Woodchip – Biodegradable is a biodegradable erosion control blanket that stabilises disturbed soil until vegetative cover is achieved. Woodchip – Biodegradable consists of poplar woodwool contained within an external polypropylene mesh. It degrades with exposure to ultraviolet light and climatic conditions, with typical installations lasting between 12-36 months. Woodchip – Biodegradable works by protecting the soil from raindrop impact and reducing overland flow velocity.

Woodchip – Biodegradable protects the topsoil and seed from:

- surface erosion from rainfall impact
- moisture loss through evaporation
- temperature extremes

WHERE IS WOODCHIP – BIODEGRADABLE USED?

Woodchip – Biodegradable is typically used in or around:

- embankments
- areas with heavy initial rainfall
- low velocity drainage channels
- areas subject to snow cover

Woodchip – Biodegradable is installed following surface preparation and seeding. Research shows Woodchip – Biodegradable significantly reduces soil loss in embankment applications.

RAINFALL INTENSITY	RAINFALL DURATION	INITIAL SOIL CONDITION	SOIL LOSS CF UNPROTECTED EMBANKMENT
40mm/hr	1 hr	dry	6%
40mm/hr	1 hr	dry	25%
75mm/hr	20 min	wet	32%

Source: Jason Consultants (1985)



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THE VEGETATIVE COVER

Cultivation and establishment of vegetative root systems reduces the likelihood of slip. Woodchip – Biodegradable stabilises the soil and protects seed and young plants during their most vulnerable phases. As the vegetative cover provides the long-term stability, the selection of seed type is critical to the long-term success of the installation.

The seed mix is to be selected and combined on the basis of:

- short-term and ongoing cover crop performance
- long-term viability, i.e. their ability to produce subsequent generations of plant
- root structure, i.e. the ability to form a continuous network within the soil
- their relationship to the surrounding vegetation

Topsoils in undisturbed areas typically carry a bank of seeds that lie dormant until conditions are right for germination. Seeding of disturbed areas should be carefully considered, catering for the variety of climatic and soil conditions expected over time.

MATERIAL PROPERTIES

Poplar Woodwool:

- density of approx. 400-500 g/m² @ 20% moisture
- shredded branch and trunk material only
- 100% seed free

Rolls:

- 50 m long x 2.5 m wide
- approx. 120 m² coverage (excluding over laps)
- approx 50-60 kg in weight
- individually plastic wrapped

Pegs:

- poplar wood
- min. 3.1 mm diameter
- min. 270 mm length x 21 mm wide x 9 mm thick with 8 x 50 mm hold down dowel insert

Mesh:

- brown/natural biodegradable polypropylene mesh
- treated with UVS additive
- mesh dimensions 9.4 x 8.5 mm
- typical life 12-36 months (UV dependent)
- breaking load 820 x 580 N/m

Woodchip – Biodegradable is a sterile product that does not import unpredictable organic materials or unwanted seeds onto site. No adhesives or chemicals have been used.