

Facts About...

Shoreline Stabilization

How to Select a Contractor

Erosion and sedimentation (the deposition of sediment) are natural processes, but often are in conflict with our use of the shoreline. The most noticeable problem created by erosion is the loss of waterfront property. Waterfront property values are high, so many owners spend considerable time and money protecting their shoreline from erosion.



Photo: Maryland Department of Natural Resources

The suitability of an appropriate shore erosion control project for your property is based on several factors:

- 1) Landowner goals;
- 2) Amount of wave energy;
- 3) Slope of bank.

All types of shore erosion control practices are subject to failure if they are not properly designed and installed. Proper maintenance may prolong the life of your project.

Improper design and construction are the major causes of project failures. For this reason, you should take care in selecting an engineer and contractor and consider the following questions:

- 1) Is the design by a certified engineer or licensed and bonded contractor?
- 2) What experience does the contractor have? Do they have experience in various types of shore erosion control to advise you on the pros and cons of different options? Ask for references and photographs of successful projects.
- 3) Will the contractor be responsible for obtaining necessary permits and approvals?
- 4) Will contractor perform required maintenance? Some projects, such as marsh creation, require a 3-5 year monitoring period and with replanting if necessary.

After Construction...

- 5) Has the project received all necessary approvals? Be certain that no work is done without authorization. As the landowner, you are responsible for violations on your property.
- 6) Was the project built according to the approved plan? Check that project was built according to approved plan. Construction that deviates from what is on the approved plan may be considered a violation of State regulations.

Is More Information Available?

The guidance documents and fact sheets are available, free, from the Water Management Administration,
Tidal Wetlands Division,
1800 Washington Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21230 (410) 537-3837
<http://bit.ly/1z6i7Xz>

- Shore Erosion Control Guidelines for Waterfront Property Owners
- Shoreline Stabilization How: to Select a Contractor
- Shoreline Stabilization: How to Select a Shoreline Stabilization Practice
- Shoreline Stabilization: Maintaining Your Shoreline Stabilization Practice
- Shoreline Stabilization: Marsh Creation
- Marsh Creation Sample Drawings

