WATER QUALITY
Building roads and bridges moves a lot of earth. If not properly contained, rain and wind carry the exposed dirt into rivers and lakes, which disturbs these ecosystems.

- Dirt can block the sunlight that keeps algae and other microorganisms alive.
- It clogs the gills of fish and other aquatic animals.
- It can change the shape of a stream or river that can create dangerous build up around bridges, or can cause flooding.

TxDOT crews keep dirt in place during construction by covering it with special blankets or by installing devices like silt fences. They also use a method called vertical tracking to slow water flow and prevent it from carrying the dirt away.

Practices like these lessen harmful impacts to nearby water sources by keeping dirt at the job site where it belongs.

Learn about TxDOT’s environment commitments at TxDOT.gov, keyword “Beyond the Road.”