



Hillside Wrap

Protection for Erosion-Prone Slopes



Monterey Park residents in erosion-prone hillside areas are urged to wrap their hillsides in plastic to prevent rain saturation damage. Since mudslides don't respect property lines, the Public Works Department advises that slope protection can be a neighborhood project. Neighbors working together can cover a hillside with 2000 square feet of plastic protection in an hour or less. Recommended is the utilization of four-mil thickness, clear polyethylene plastic which is available in 20-foot wide, 100-foot lengths at a charge to city residents of \$55.00 from the City Maintenance Yard.

In addition to the plastic, the project requires a bundle of garden stakes, a large ball of rope, a mallet, scissors, knife, and sandbags. Weighting down the plastic

covering is one of the most important aspects to the entire process. Do not overfill of sandbags as that may make them cumbersome to handle.

Here's how to wrap that hill:

- Securely holding the plastic at the top of the hill, let it roll to the bottom. Trim the bottom edge extending over the slope's toe—or to a concrete channel.
- Unfold the plastic sheet to its full width. Plastic should be long enough to reach from a few feet back to the top edge to a few feet past the slope's toe.
- Lay sandbags a few feet apart along the top edge. At the corners and in two or three evenly spaced spots between, drive a stake into the ground next to the plastic. Twist each top corner of the sheet and lash with rope to the stakes.
- Next tie rope to sandbags and lower them horizontal rows, across the slope every six to eight feet. Tie rope to stakes at the top. Weight overlapping edges to prevent billowing.
- Weighting down the plastic is the most important aspect to wrapping hillsides...an extra effort to prevent billowing from the winds which follow the rain will ensure the effectiveness of the hillside wrap.

As simple as the entire slope-wrapping process is, it is also highly effective in preventing erosion and slides, and in utilizing clear plastic, the hillside vegetation will not be in the dark all winter.

Please note:

When you wrap your slope, please try to coordinate the process with your neighbors who might be down-slope of you. The objective of this is to wrap the entire slope regardless of where one's property line stops or begins — the water runoff does not stop at the end of a property line. If only a portion of the hillside is wrapped, the quantity of water flowing down the hill will be greater and faster as it passes over a plastic-covered slope, thereby having greater impact on your down-hill neighbor. By working together, the entire hillside can be protected and the down-hill property owner will be able to successfully divert the water through their property. Coordinating this effort with others involved will make the process more effective and safer for everyone.

For further information on slope protection, go to

<http://www.montereypark.ca.gov/1118/Preparing-for-Fire-Season-El-Nino>