



# Plastics (synthetic fibers) in Erosion Prevention & Sediment Control Practices

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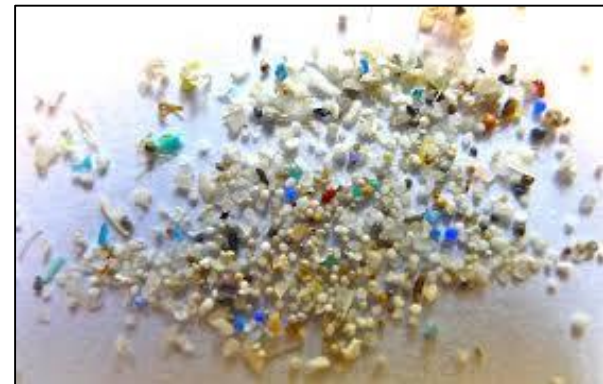
# The Concerns

- Definitions

**Degradable:** Break apart into microscopic pieces (microplastics).

**Biodegradable:** Break down into natural elements (i.e., carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen) by organisms like bacteria and fungi.

- Wildlife entanglement
- Equipment entanglement
- Aesthetics
- Microplastics



Microplastics.

- Many plastic erosion control products are meant to be *temporary*.
- MnDOT has taken the lead on addressing these issues w/ respect to erosion control products.
- MnDOT is working with industry to address environmental concerns and construction needs.
- Recently phased out the use of *temporary* plastic erosion-control blanket on MnDOT projects.
- Rough estimate ('16 – '18 average) shows MnDOT applying 31 tons of plastics per year to the environment.



Plastic erosion control blanket.



Natural fiber erosion control blanket.

# Plastics and Construction

Silt Fence



Hydromulch



Sediment logs



# Thank you.

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