
WINTERIZATION GUIDELINES & REQUIREMENTS

I. OVERVIEW

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) and partner agencies inspect all construction sites to determine compliance with these winterization requirements. Please be advised that the following conditions apply to all projects under construction, as stated in the Standard Conditions of Approval and the TRPA Code of Ordinances.

All construction sites must be winterized between October 15th and May 1st.

For any questions regarding information within this packet, please call 775-589-5333 or email TRPA@trpa.gov to speak with a permitting technician.

II. WINTERIZATION REQUIREMENTS

All construction sites must meet the following winterization requirements:

1. Grading is PROHIBITED on all construction sites between October 15th and May 1st.
2. Install and maintain effective temporary sediment control devices (fiber rolls, silt fence), with extra attention paid to areas where water may concentrate or pond. Temporary BMPs must not be located where they may interfere with snow removal operations.
3. Install and maintain effective temporary fencing for the protection of vegetation.
4. Stabilize disturbed and bare soil areas with erosion control blankets or by applying a thin layer (no more than 1 inch thick) of organic mulch (wood chips, pine needles) with the following guidance:
 - a. No organic mulch within 5 feet of any structure. Inorganic mulch (gravel) is acceptable in this area.
 - b. Apply organic mulch sparingly on no more than 50% of bare soil in the project area. Patches of organic mulch should be applied to areas where there is a higher risk of erosion.
 - c. Before the start of the grading season (May 1st), all organic mulch needs to be removed from within 30 feet of all structures. Needles and leaves that fall after the spring removal period can accumulate on the ground as long as they are not within 5 feet of any structure and do not create a fire hazard.

5. For all cut and fill slopes, install permanent (rock riprap, retaining walls, vegetation) or temporary (erosion control blankets, hydro mulch with tackifier) stabilization measures.
6. Cleanup and remove all on-site construction debris and spoil piles.
7. With approval, stockpiles may remain on-site over the winter; however, they must be covered with a durable material or plastic sheeting and have full perimeter containment using either a filter fabric fence or staked/weighted fiber rolls. Store stockpiles away from sensitive or erosion-prone areas.

For active construction sites where work will continue between October 15 and May 1, the following requirements are also mandatory:

1. Pave all driveways, parking areas and material storage areas.
2. Parking of vehicles and storage of building materials shall be restricted to paved areas.
3. Sweep daily to recover sediment that has been tracked off the construction site.

III. GRADING SEASON EXCEPTIONS

Grading is prohibited on construction sites between October 15th and May 1st. Grading Season Exceptions are issued where emergencies exist and the grading is necessary for the protection of public health or safety, or the grading is for erosion control purposes or protection of water quality. For more information on grading season exceptions, visit [TRPA's Inspections and Securities webpage](#).