

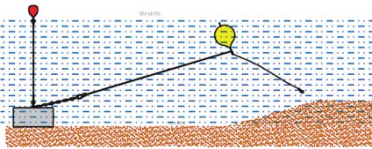
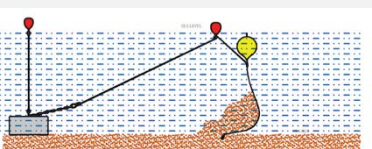
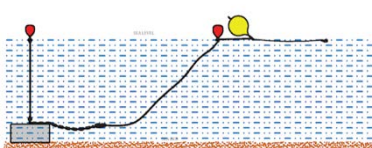
# Silt Curtains

## Failure Modes

# Technical Note



The most common failures experienced with silt curtains are:

	<b>Failure or Issue</b>	<b>Cause</b>	<b>Solution</b>
	Submerged flotation at anchor points only	No anchor buoy on line, which causes curtain to be pulled underwater at the anchor point.	An anchor buoy should always be on the anchor line 0.5-1.0m from the anchor point on the curtain, to act as a shock absorber and provide a horizontal pull on the curtain.
	Submerged flotation	Skirt has become buried by sediment or reclamation.	Very difficult to rectify. If a small area, divers can assist removing the material on the skirt. Using a crane will likely rip the skirt off in case of too much sediment. If unable to be removed, skirt may need to be cut at seabed level.
	Skirt lifting up and floating on surface	Strong currents and insufficient ballast or too deep a skirt.	Longer skirts are subject to higher forces and can result in a shallower effective depth than a shorter curtain, which is difficult to fix after installation. Divers can add additional weight or curtain can be removed and reinstalled with additional ballast chain.

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	<b>Failure or Issue</b>	<b>Cause</b>	<b>Solution</b>
	Foam leaking through gaps in float pocket connections	Type I and II curtains are designed to close off at the top. Type III and IV are designed to have independently moving float pockets unless optional foam flaps are provided.	Type I and II – Check whether top float pockets are connected as per instruction manual. Type III and IV – Install foam flaps if provided, however, in most offshore conditions not recommended.
	Rips or tears in skirt visible	Incorrectly specified curtain type or improper handling.	Care must be taken when installing or relocating curtains to prevent damage, as these are the highest forces placed on a curtain. All curtains should be furled prior to relocating to reduce strain. If a new install, curtain may be under capacity for environmental conditions.
	Broken anchor lines	Incorrectly specified anchor system or vandalism.	Type I and II are designed for up to 18mm PP rope. Rope will break in conditions that require a Type III or IV. These curtains are specified with 24mm Nylon Rope. In the event of vandalism or boat impact, navigation buoys and lights should be used to demarcate the curtain.

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Failure or Issue	Cause	Solution
Rips in float pocket	Vandalism, boat impact, improper assembly or handling.	Float pockets should not be under force or tension. If rips are forming, which are not the result of vessel impact or vandalism, there is too much tension in the float pockets and they should be separated at the anchor points. In Type I and II, this usually means that the conditions are not suitable for this type of curtain. In Type III and IV, this usually means that the conditions are not suitable for foam flaps, and if present, these should be removed.

