

Silt Curtains

Selection



Technical Note



Selecting the right silt curtain for your project before commencement is the most critical aspect of the decision. Many view the use of a silt curtain as a necessary evil that is forced on them, often in the late stages of project mobilization and one that just needs to be put in place to tick a box or meet requirements of a consultant or client.

Making the wrong selection, such as one based purely on price, can have far reaching ramifications on site, resulting in far greater costs to the project than the marginal cost savings at the start of the project. Incorrectly selecting or installing a silt curtain can result in failure and the shutdown of a project site whilst it is addressed. Taking into consideration the cost per hour or per day of each piece of machinery or manpower on site quickly adds up, so it is important to choose correctly at the start.

In general, the following questions and considerations need to be addressed at the start of the buying decision:

- Environmental conditions (currents, waves, water depth)?
- Assembly and deployment location?
- What equipment is available on site for installation and anchor handling?
- Does it need to be relocated and are resources available to do this?
- Maintenance and monitoring – do you have the resources and equipment on site to handle a failure?
- What are the potential ramifications of a failure (lost project time, downtime costs, environmental damage)?
- Project budget?

The table on the next page will help guide your selection of the right model curtain and anchoring at the early phases. Note that the models of curtain provided below are indicative and based on Ecocoast's silt curtain technical datasheets. It is worth noting that unfortunately not all silt curtains are created equal. When comparing suppliers, please review technical specifications and ensure you are comparing like-for-like. Suppliers with Gulf Specifications will be much higher rated than Asian, European or American suppliers, not just in terms of tensile strength but in the overall way the curtains are manufactured.

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	Silt Curtain Selection				Anchor Selection	
	Type I	Type II	Type III	Type IV	Danforth	Concrete
Current Speed						
(1m/s = 2knts)						
Less than 0.5m/s	x	x	x	x	x	x
Between 0.5-1.0m/s		x	x	x		x
Between 1.0-1.5m/s			x	x		x
Over 1.5m/s				x		x
Wave Height						
None (sheltered)	x	x	x	x	x	x
Less than 0.5m (short period)		x	x	x		x
Between 0.5-1.5m (nearshore)			x	x		x
Over 1.5m (offshore)				x		x
Installation Frequency						
Fixed installation	x	x	x	x	x	x
Relocation to different sites			x	x	x	x
Installation Duration						
Less than 6 months	x	x	x	x	x	x
Over 6 months		x	x	x	x	x
Site Sensitivity						
(how much impact to site operations or local habitat would a failure have)						
Low (no major impact)	x	x	x	x	x	x
Medium (manageable impact)		x	x	x		x
High (high costs/envir. damage)			x	x		x

Note: We recommend selecting the model that meets all minimum recommendations for all selection criteria.