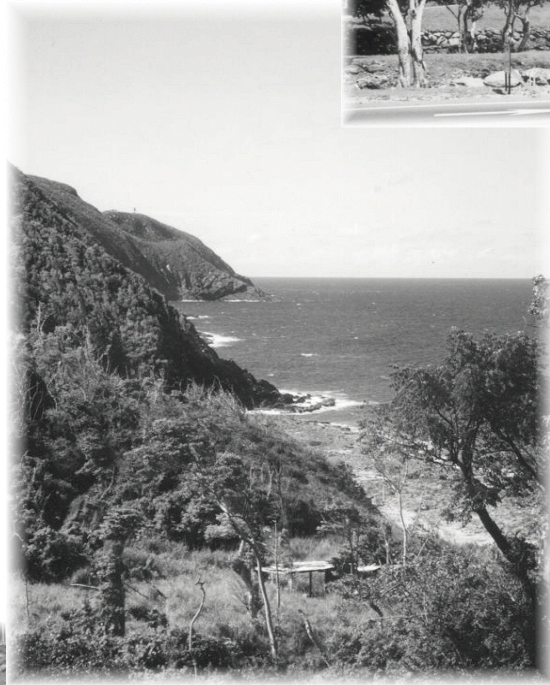


VIRGIN ISLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION HANDBOOK 2002



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VIRGIN ISLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION HANDBOOK

2002

A GUIDE TO ASSIST IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

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1976

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FOREWORD

The Virgin Islands Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution Control Committee was formed in the fall of 1992 to address nonpoint pollution problems in Virgin Islands' waters. Nonpoint source pollution of water resources comes from many sources and is caused by rainfall moving over and through the ground. As the rainwater moves, it picks up and carries away both natural and man-induced pollutants. These pollutants are then deposited onto roadways and downhill properties, and into guts, ponds wetlands, ground water, and coastal waters. Nonpoint source pollution in the Virgin Islands is commonly associated with land management practices involving construction, urban runoff, failing septic systems, marina operations, agriculture and hydrologic modification.

The NPS Committee receives funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through grants to implement the provisions of Section 319 of the U.S. Clean Water Act and Section 6217(g) of the U.S. Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments. Part of this federal funding was allocated to revise the Environmental Protection Handbook in order to conform with the intent of federal legislation.

The Environmental Protection Handbook is intended for use **only** as a **guide** to the reader, indicating what practices, standards, and procedures should be utilized in the development planning process in order to comply with the Virgin Islands Environmental Protection Law, Title 12, Chapter 13 of the Virgin Islands Code and the corresponding Virgin Islands Rules and Regulations. It is designed to assist contractors, developers, architects, and home builders implement a Stormwater, Erosion and Sediment Control Plan specifically designed for their construction site.

This handbook provides useful information on stormwater, erosion, and sediment control practices that can be used to prevent or reduce the discharge of sediment and other pollutants in stormwater runoff from your construction site. It also describes the practices and controls, and details how, when and where these practices are applicable. However, careful consideration must be given to selecting the most appropriate control measures based on site-specific conditions, and on properly installing the controls in a **timely** manner.

Lack of description or criteria for a specific practice does not suggest it should not be used, but only that consideration by the appropriate reviewing agency will be on the basis of information submitted with the design.

The term "shall" is used where the practice is sufficiently standardized to permit specific delineation of requirements or where safe-guarding of the public health or protection of water quality justifies such definite action. Other terms, such as "should" or "recommended" or "preferred" indicate desirable procedures or methods, with deviations subject to individual consideration.

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