The designs are complete, the plans are approved. It’s time to start building! When building your home, there are things you and your builder need to know and do to avoid damaging the environment or any other property.
Protecting trees, nature strips and other public land

During construction, you must be careful not to damage existing features around your house. This includes trees along streets and in other open spaces, your nature strip and any footpaths or roads. You need to make sure you protect these during any building or landscaping work. This could include putting up temporary fencing around your nature strip.

Protecting our waterways

When dirt and other sediment is washed into our waterways it can block our drains, affect water quality and damage habitat.

To protect our waterways, you need to ensure soil and other waste does not leave your block and enter the stormwater system. This needs to be considered before and during any building work.

This could include measures such as sediment fences or catch drains. These are temporary barriers that trap waste and debris to ensure they don’t wash into nearby gutters and drains.

You could also include temporary downpipe connections once your roof is on your home. This will prevent water from washing across your site and causing erosion.

Air and noise pollution

While building your home, you should be careful to not create too much dust or noise at times when it might disturb your neighbours. If there is going to be work happening on a windy day, think about using water to keep the dust from blowing around.

You can find information on noise thresholds in residential areas on the Access Canberra website at accesscanberra.act.gov.au.

Construction waste and recycling

Building a home is likely to result in some waste and recycling, such as extra materials or packaging. It is important to keep these materials contained while they are on your block. This is so they don’t blow away or enter our waterways.

If possible, try to reduce the amount of waste you generate. You should also check to see if any of it can be reused or recycled.

If you see any illegal dumping, please report it to Access Canberra on 13 22 81.

For more details on construction rules and requirements visit Access Canberra at accesscanberra.act.gov.au or phone 13 22 81.