Coir Mat Installation
Effective Erosion Control

The area selected for geotextile application should be graded uniformly by removing obstructions such as wood and clods, so that coconut geotextile comes in complete contact with soil. Seeds that adapt to the soil type and region should be mixed with manure or compost and spread uniformly along the slope. Compost or manure application is needed only if the soil is poor and the vegetation is required to grow in a shorter period of time.

Seeding
For coir blankets or mats with small mesh/open space, seeding should be done prior to installation of the mat. For open weave mats and geotextile blankets with more mesh opening space, seeding can be done after installation.

Trenching
A trench 1-1/2 feet deep and 1 foot wide should be made at the top and bottom of the slope with the purpose of securing the mat with back-filled material.

Measuring
Cut the chosen mat/geotextile product into the required length for the project. The cut mats are unrolled from the top and laid along the slope (in the direction of the water flow). While measuring the project site, care should be taken to ensure that the mat is not stretched and that the measurement allows for contact of the coconut geotextile with soil.
Proper installation is key to the success of erosion prevention products. If installed improperly, even the best stormwater control and erosion prevention materials fail to serve their purpose. Therefore, importance should be given to secure staking, adequate fabric overlap, proper trenching, and skilled construction supervision during installation.

**Overlapping**

It is recommended that coconut fiber geotextiles overlap a minimum of 6 to 8 inches between adjacent parallel rolls, laid along the width, secured by staples or stakes. When mats are joined down the slope, place the upper mat over the lower mat end with a 12-inch overlap, and anchor with 2 staggered rows of staples with 12-inch spacing.

**Anchoring**

Once the mat has been laid out, it should be secured in the top trench by gauge eleven (11) “U” shaped metal staples. Wooden stakes can serve the same purpose. They are usually pegged at a gap of 36 inches (one meter). Keep a minimum distance of 2 inches from the edge of the blanket to the center of the staples or stakes.

The open end of the mat at the lower end of the slope should also be secure by pegging “J” hooks to the bottom trench at about 36” (one meter), covered with cut fill.

After securing the top and bottom ends, the top and bottom trenches should be filled back with soil. Care should be taken that soil is compacted properly and no loose gaps exist which may cause rain water to go seep through the mat and flow down the slope.

Review the Coir Mat Product Flyer for more information about coir mat erosion control.