

WHAT IS IT ?

Our What is it? series answers questions about some of the lesser known objects found on the construction site.

FILTER THIS - PROTECTING OUR WATERWAYS

What is it? A coir log – otherwise known as sediment retention fibre rolls or wattles.

What is the coir log used for? After a storm or rain event you will typically see sediment collect on the road and other hard surfaces. Coir logs are put in place to block sediment carried through flowing water from entering into drainage systems.

Where are the logs being used on the Gordie Howe International Bridge project? The coir logs are used to prevent sediment from entering the storm drains along the Perimeter Access Road (PAR) or the stormwater retention ponds installed at the Canadian Port of Entry (POE). The third photo shows what an effective coir log would look like following a storm.

What are the logs made of? The logs are made from coconut husk and held together with a netting also made of coconut fibre which makes them both durable and biodegradable.

What are the dimensions of the coir logs? Each log is approximately 30cm/1 foot by 2.28m/7.5 feet.



Close up of the coir log



The coir log positioned in front of the drainage system



The coir log after a rainfall

How often do they need to be replaced? The logs are designed to last anywhere between 2 and 5 years, depending on the application. The logs are inspected on a daily basis by environmental monitors and replaced as needed.

Why are they effective? The logs are easy to install, have a high water permeability and are therefore extremely effective in providing sediment control.

What makes these logs different from other sediment control measures? The coir logs are environmentally friendly - 100% natural, organic, biodegradable and, as well, wildlife-friendly.

Why is being environmentally friendly important to the Gordie Howe International Bridge project? Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA) and its private-sector partner, Bridging North America, are required to work with provincial, state and federal authorities to ensure that all of the commitments to environmental mitigation and monitoring, including storm water quality, as identified in the environmental approvals are implemented effectively. The logs are just one example of how we are committed to sustainability and protecting the environment both during construction and the operation phases of the Gordie Howe International Bridge project.