

ANTI-BURROWING MESH

PREVENTING MAMMAL DAMAGE TO GEOTECHNICAL ASSETS

Badgers, rabbits, beavers and other burrowing mammals can damage earthworks, embankments and dykes. This can lead to an increased risk of instability, especially if surface water can then penetrate the slope.

As some animals are protected species, measures are needed that suppress the natural burrowing behaviours of the animals in a sustainable manner.

Anti-Burrowing mesh pinned to the embankment to be protected, deters mammals from digging. The tough steel woven wire mesh is flexible, easy to install and cannot be gnawed through, unlike polymer 'geogrid' style meshes.

Maccaferri Anti-Burrowing Mesh is available in two types:

- M Steel wire woven mesh** only where vegetation is already present on the slope
- M Steel wire woven mesh with an integral 3D polymer matrix** to provide root reinforcement and support the revegetation of slopes



Mammal burrow damage to slope causing vegetation loss and instability



DT mesh flexibility enables variable slope profile and obstacles to be accommodated easily

TRIED AND TESTED:

Anti-burrowing mesh is manufactured in our ISO9001 factories. We also have International EPD Environmental Product Declarations (environdec.org) for the products to provide transparent emissions data during manufacturing.



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Studies and evidence

Independent studies* have been carried out throughout Europe on measures to prevent large burrowing mammals damaging embankments and dykes. Conclusions include:

- M Geosynthetic geogrids** are gnawed through by larger mammals and burrowing continues
- M Steel wire mesh** prevents burrowing



Anti-burrowing mesh with integral 3D geomat



Anti-burrowing mesh installed on highway embankment

Feature	Benefit
Steel wire "double twist" hexagonal wire mesh	Flexible: Can be easily profiled onto uneven slopes. Does not unravel like "chain-link" meshes if a wire is cut or broken. Mesh can be locally cut and relaced around obstacles on the slope. E.g. tree stumps, rocks etc. Tough: Deters mammals gnawing through mesh
Thicker selvedge wire along edges of mesh	Adjacent rolls connected by butt-joints. No overlap needed reducing material wastage.
Connection between rolls – Easy to install	Can use: Pneumatic fixing 'hog-ring' tool, manual DT Links or lacing wire.
Integral 3D polymer matrix (optional)	Provides immediate erosion protection . Matrix retains topsoil to enable revegetation of bare slopes. Provides root reinforcement to developing plants.
Mesh coating: Zn-Al heavy galvanised + Polymer coating	BBA Certified mesh is the core of the product with design life of 120 years. Class A galvanised according to BSEN 10244-2.
Supplied in rolls	Convenient for transportation and deployment on site. Roll width / length can be manufactured to special order.

* Italy SPRA – 2002-2013
Italy MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND LAND PROTECTION (Italy) – 2001
River March, Austria – 2008 – TU Vienna
Oder Dyke, Germany – State Agency, Land Brandenburg & TU Dresden – 2013

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