

Silt curtain installation and maintenance guide

Plan the anchorage first. Keep the skirt furled during towing, confirm the curtain is secure and untwisted, then release the skirt. Inspect the system throughout its deployment and recover it only after the protected works have stopped.

Use this guide with the supplied assembly details and the project installation plan. Curtain layout, skirt depth, flotation, ballast, anchors and rigging depend on water depth, tides, currents, wind, waves and vessel movements. Confirm the configuration with the project designer and environmental adviser before installation. This guide provides general installation information; it does not specify anchor capacity or certify a design.

Prepare the site and curtain

- 01** Confirm the deployment alignment, required length, access to the waterway, launch and recovery areas, vessel access and applicable environmental requirements.
- 02** Choose the layout around the waterway conditions and the work. Common configurations are maze, open, closed onshore and closed offshore. A closed arrangement using the foreshore, seawall or another suitable boundary can reduce sediment bypass around the ends.
- 03** Provide enough clear working space to unpack, connect and inspect the curtain. Place pallets close to the launch area. For multiple pallets, follow the labelled sequence and join sections consecutively.
- 04** Inspect the float chambers, skirts, ballast pockets, connectors, zips, anchor points and rigging. Confirm the delivered packing arrangement and section connections before starting.

The source manufacturer guide describes curtains supplied with the skirt furled and sections connected in lengths of up to 100 m per pallet. Confirm the actual delivery arrangement for the order; it is not a standard Kontain pallet quantity.

Keep the product scope clear

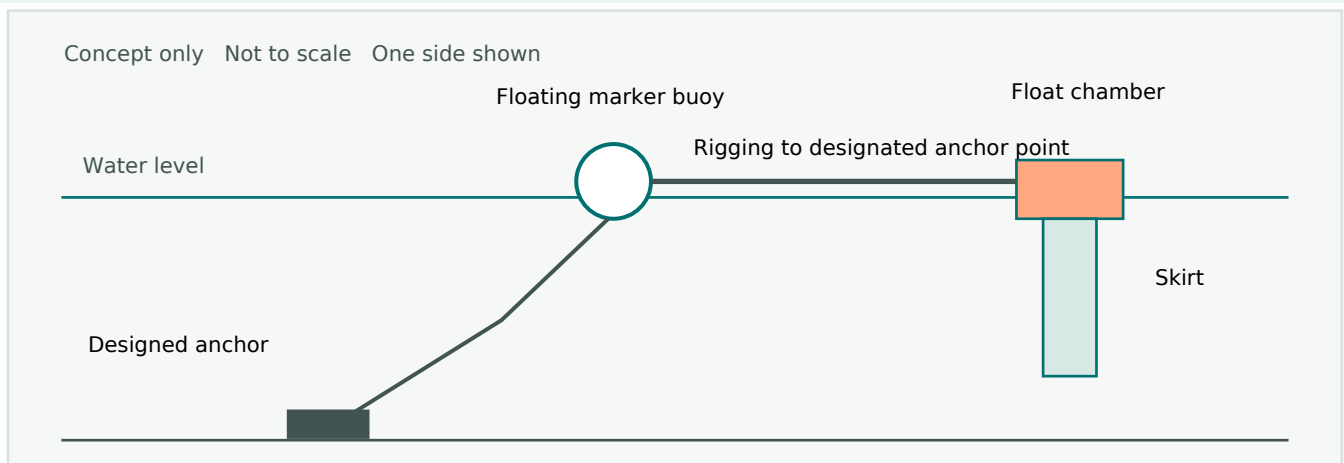
This guide covers silt curtains. Weed booms may use similar anchoring points, but their open mesh and operating purpose differ. Confirm the weed boom assembly and its installation requirements separately; similar connections do not establish equivalent sediment-control performance.

Install the anchoring system first

Install the anchors, marker buoys and rigging before deploying the curtain. Select anchor capacity and layout for the hydraulic loads. Floating buoys help manage the anchoring forces applied to the curtain. Where ebb and flow tides reverse the loading direction, the source guide recommends anchoring on both sides.

Do not drag deadweight anchors along the bed. Use the designated lifting loops and rigging to raise them. Disconnect the attached curtain and buoy from the marker before redeploying an anchor, following the supplied system details and project handling plan.

Do not attach the curtain directly to pilings or poles driven into the bed. Use the specified mooring arrangement. Anchor spacing, line length, capacity and navigation lighting must be confirmed for the site; dimensions in a supplier illustration are not a universal design.



Conceptual mooring arrangement. The project design determines geometry, ballast, bed clearance, rigging and any anchorage on the opposite side.

Deploy and release the skirt

- 01** Connect the required curtain length in the planned sequence. Keep the skirt furled and tied during launch and towing.
- 02** Tow slowly to the deployment position. The source guide gives a maximum towing speed of 2 to 3 knots for its furled curtains. Confirm the limit for the supplied assembly and use a lower speed where the site or towing method requires it.
- 03** Secure the furled curtain to the installed anchoring system. Check its position and confirm the skirt is not twisted around the float chamber.
- 04** Once the curtain is anchored in the correct position and untwisted, remove the furling ties and allow the skirt to drop into place.
- 05** If repositioning is required, furl the skirt before moving the curtain through the water. Towing with the skirt deployed places excessive load on the system.

Inspect and maintain during deployment

Set the inspection frequency in the project maintenance plan. The source guide specifically recommends a schedule for deployments longer than three months and describes intervals from daily to quarterly, determined by the contractor. These are not a default inspection interval for every site.

Kontain recommends agreeing the inspection and maintenance arrangements before deployment, including how suspected damage or a sediment release will be investigated. Set the frequency around the waterway exposure, operating conditions and environmental requirements.

Check the complete system

- **Position and condition** - confirm the curtain remains on the intended alignment, with no obvious defects, tears or entanglement.
- **Skirt and bed interaction** - check the skirt is free to move and has not become buried or trapped by sand or deposited mud.
- **Anchors and lines** - check line condition, connections and wear at anchoring points. Replace worn or broken lines.
- **Float chambers and joints** - check the integrity of the flotation chamber, section connectors and skirt zips for the supplied assembly.
- **Growth and debris** - remove marine growth and trapped floating refuse as needed to maintain the system.
- **Markers and lights** - confirm required marker buoys and lights are present and operational.

Investigate damage below the waterline

Surface inspections cannot show the full skirt and underwater connections. Arrange a suitable underwater inspection where needed, particularly following a curtain failure or suspended-sediment release. Where divers are used, the work must follow the project diving arrangements.

Consider keeping a compatible spare curtain section on site. Replacing a damaged panel can be quicker than repairing it in position and can reduce downtime.

Record each inspection and repair

Record the inspection date, curtain location, observations, defects and the actions taken. Include photographs where available, identify any replacement parts or sections and record outstanding actions and the next inspection.

Recover after the protected works stop

- 01** Stop the marine works for which the curtain was installed. Visually inspect water quality within the protected area and confirm that no sediment plume is present before removal. Follow any additional release criteria in the project environmental requirements.
- 02** Plan a controlled recovery. Disconnect from the anchoring points as required by that plan, furl the skirt and remove the mooring systems. Maintain control of the curtain throughout the sequence.
- 03** Tow the system back to the launch area with its skirt furled. Remove it from the waterway for inspection, cleaning and reuse, or disposal as appropriate.

Clean and store for reuse

Clean silt and sediment from the skirt and inspect the complete assembly. The source guide describes high-pressure washing; confirm the cleaning method is suitable for the supplied fabric, seams, zips and float chamber before use.

Allow the curtain to dry before packing it on a pallet for storage. Repair or replace damaged components before the next deployment. Reuse depends on the condition of the complete assembly and the requirements of the next project; this guide does not set a guaranteed number of reuse cycles.

Site handover checks

- Protected works have ceased and water quality has been checked before recovery.
- Curtain, anchors, rigging and markers have been recovered in accordance with the project plan.
- Condition, repairs, cleaning, storage or disposal have been recorded.
- Any remaining environmental or site close-out actions have been assigned.

Technical support

Send Kontain the layout, water depths, water-level variation, current and wave conditions, deployment period and access constraints to discuss the curtain configuration and supply requirements.

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Source and adaptation

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