

## WHAT IS AN ENVIROTUBE?

Envirotubes are high strength fabric, tubular containers, designed to contain and dewater dredge spoils, industrial and municipal sludge, and other pump slurries products through environmental remediation projects.

Envirotubes are fabricated from Propex® Geotex® 4x6 reinforcement geotextile combining the high strength necessary for the demanding structural strains, with the porous weave required for optimal dewatering capabilities. They are available in standard sizes of 15 ft., 30 ft., 45 ft., and 60 ft. circumference, in various lengths to accommodate the specific requirements of the project.

Although this is a relatively new method, many regulators and engineers are familiar with the procedure. In fact, in some areas, the use of Envirotubes can help in the permitting process.

Currently the most common reason Envirotubes are used is limited area near a project for containment and dewatering of material. Mechanical excavation for site preparation is minimal.

Hydraulic dredging would typically require the construction of a spoil area. The space to position such a spoil area is often very limited and sometimes totally unavailable. The use of Envirotubes opens a whole realm of possibilities. A marina can be dredged using the parking lot; a sludge lagoon can be cleaned by placing the Envirotubes on the levy dam; a suburban lake surrounded by homes can be cleaned using the commons ground. The use of Envirotubes in these applications is also much neater and safer than an open spoil area for use in parks or golf courses.

The other common factor in the decision to use Envirotubes has been cost savings. Despite the many logistical advantages of using Envirotubes, it is often the most cost effective way to do the project as well. This has been proven in many sludge applications that had previously been done by other methods; from projects where material had been hauled wet in tank trucks, to projects where presses and mechanical dewatering equipment was used.

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mill jobs with many hundreds of thousands of yards of material, the overall operations cost of the project was reduced by the use of Envirotubes.



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**PROPEX**

Geotex® woven geotextiles for stabilization, separation, filtration, erosion protection and waste containment applications.

## ENVIROTUBES FEATURES AND BENEFITS

- The dewatering system with no capital investment.
- An envirotube is a container made of a high strength woven geotextile. Its' purpose is to contain pumped slurry and retain the solids while the water or fluid is released through the fabric.
- This is a function of time, gravity, and chemistry, not pressure.
- Envirotubes are a relatively new way to dewater dredged and other slurry when other methods are less practical or cost effective.
- Envirotubes take up less space than some dewatering methods, are less dangerous than some, less obtrusive than some and less costly than some, and easier to set up and transport than some.
- Envirotubes can be used to dewater most any slurry that contains solids.
- Envirotubes work in most any weather conditions.
- Envirotubes are available in a variety of sizes, and are inventoried in the common sizes used for dewatering for immediate delivery.
- Envirotube fabric is unaffected by ph and is impervious to most nonpetroleum materials and has even been used on some petroleum sludge successfully.
- Envirotubes are easy to install.
- Envirotubes eliminate many environmental problems on dredge and environmental cleanup jobs.
- Envirotubes can be used in process as well as for cleanups.
- Envirotubes can be left in place and/or used for erosion control.
- Envirotubes can be used to create islands with dredged materials.
- Envirotubes are often easier to permit than other methods.
- Envirotubes can reduce pumping distances.