

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT  
GEOSYNTHETIC MATERIALS, CONTACT:**

Geosynthetics Materials Association  
1801 County Road B West  
Roseville, MN 55113-4061  
+1 651 225 6907  
www.gmanow.com

# HOW GEOSYNTHETICS BENEFIT OUR NATION'S INFRASTRUCTURE

**G**eosynthetics are a family of civil engineering materials used in our nation's infrastructure. Many durable polymers (plastics) common to everyday life are found in geosynthetics. The most common are polyolefins and polyester; although rubber, fiberglass, and natural materials are sometimes used.

Since their introduction in the late 1960s, geosynthetics have proven to be versatile and cost-effective ground modification and environmental protection materials. Most of these materials come in roll form and are delivered to sites in trucks. Their use has expanded rapidly into nearly all areas of civil, geotechnical, environmental, coastal, and hydraulic construction.

## **FASTER, LESS EXPENSIVE, TIME PROVEN**

Geosynthetics, including geotextiles, geomembranes, geonets, geogrids, geocells, geocomposites, and geosynthetic clay liners, often used in combination with conventional materials, offer the following advantages over traditional materials:

- **Rapid Deployment**—Geosynthetics can be installed quickly, providing the flexibility to construct during short construction seasons, breaks in inclement weather, or without the need to demobilize and remobilize the earthwork contractor.
- **Cost Savings**—Often geosynthetics are less costly to purchase, transport, and install than other materials, soils, and aggregates.
- **Time Proven**—Geosynthetics have been in use for more than 40 years.

## **PRODUCTION AND EMPLOYMENT**

Most geosynthetics are produced in U.S. textile and plastics mills. As a result, strict quality control procedures can be followed to create superior material consistency compared to soil, rock, concrete, or other natural materials.

There are more than 40 manufacturers of geosynthetics that provide products for the North American marketplace. More than half of the manufacturers are located in the Southeastern U.S or Texas. The industry provides more than 12,000 jobs in the U.S. in manufacturing, fabrication, distribution, and installation. The geosynthetics industry adds \$2.1 billion to the U.S. economy.

