

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS**

TERRACE

1. Scope

The work shall consist of constructing the terrace channels and ridges and filling and leveling as required by the construction plans.

2. Location

The location of the terrace shall be as shown on the construction plans or as staked in the field.

3. Site Preparation

All dead furrows, ditches, and gullies shall be filled prior to or as a part of construction. Old terraces, fencerows, brush, and tall standing vegetation shall be removed from the area occupied by the terrace ridge and the area from which the earthen construction material will be taken.

4. Material

Materials for the earthfill shall be obtained from excavation in the channel or other designated areas and shall be free of objectionable materials such as brush, roots, and rock particles that endanger the performance of the terrace.

5. Placement of Earthfill

All terraces. Terraces shall be constructed to the dimensions specified on the construction plans or as staked in the field. All fills shall be full-bodied with the cross section conforming to that specified for all stations. Terrace ridges constructed across gullies or depressions shall be compacted by machinery travel to ensure proper density. The terrace channels, side slopes, ridges, cut areas, and fill areas shall be finished to a smoothness so the surface can be readily traveled upon by farm-type equipment. Topsoil is to be stripped, stockpiled, and spread on disturbed areas or used in the outer portion of terrace ridges to restore soil productivity (when specified in the construction details).

Level Terraces. Partial- or complete-end closures and channel blocks (when specified) must be in place before the terrace is considered complete.

Unless otherwise specified in the Construction Details section, the maximum tolerance between high and low points in the channel of all level terraces is 1 foot for channel widths of 30 feet or less and 0.4 foot for channel widths greater than 30 feet.

The terrace ridge will be constructed to produce a virtually level settled ridge crown throughout the terrace length so that runoff in excess of the design frequency can overtop in sheet flow and not as concentrated flow at a few low points.

Any ditch or channel made at the bottom edge of the back slope while moving earth from the back slope into the terrace ridge will be shaped, as necessary, so that drainage from the back slope of the terrace will not flow parallel to it.

Soil moisture shall be adequate for construction and light compaction. Extremely dry conditions shall require delay of construction until rainfall restores the soil moisture conditions.

6. Outlets

Underground tile outlets are to be installed at locations shown on the drawings or as staked in the field. Refer to the Construction Specifications 620, Underground Outlet, for detailed installation requirements.

Terrace outlet structures are to be installed at locations shown on the drawings or as staked in the field. Refer to the Construction Specifications 410, Grade Stabilization Structures, for detailed installation requirements.

7. Vegetation

A protective cover of vegetation shall be established on steep back slope and narrow-based terraces when specified in the Construction Details section. Refer to the Construction Specifications 342, Critical Area Seeding, for detailed seeding requirements.

8. Measurement

Measurement for the amount of terraces completed will be determined by measuring the length of the terrace channel in feet. The measurement shall begin and end where design depth is reached.

9. Construction Details