

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

SPOIL SPREADING

(Ac.)

CODE 572

DEFINITION

Disposing of surplus excavated materials.

PURPOSE

- Permit use of land occupied by spoil for agriculture and other purposes
- Facilitate establishing and controlling vegetation along banks
- Provide a travel way along banks for use and maintenance
- Provide borrow for land grading, leveling, or smoothing
- Improve landscape quality

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies to sites where spoil material is available from excavation of channels, drainage ditches, irrigation canals, or other construction sites and where it is desirable and economically feasible to achieve one or more purposes.

CRITERIA

Federal, State, and Local Laws

Design and construction activities shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations governing pollution abatement, health, and safety. The owner or operator shall secure all permits and approvals and is responsible for performing all planned work in

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accordance with such laws and regulations. NRCS employees shall not procure permits, rights, or approvals, nor shall they enforce laws and regulations. NRCS may provide the landowner or operator with technical information needed to obtain the required permits, rights or approvals to construct, operate, and maintain the practice. Additional permits may be required from the following agencies:

- 1. West Virginia Department of Health***
- 2. West Virginia Department of Agriculture***
- 3. West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection.***
- 4. Environmental Protection Agency***

Permits may be required from the following agencies when obstruction removal is performed within the boundaries of a stream or floodplain or if burning is required:

- 1. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers***
- 2. WV Department of Natural Resources***
- 3. WV Public Lands Corporation***
- 4. US Fish and Wildlife Service***
- 5. Local state and county ordinances.***

Spoil shall be spread over a designated area according to an approved plan or as modified by a technician at the site.

Spreading shall not be done when the ground or soil is frozen, excessively wet or otherwise in a condition detrimental to the work.

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Provisions shall be made for the diversion or safe passage of surface water concentrating on the landside of the spoil-banks along channels, ditches, or canals.

Location and placement of spoil shall be such as to avoid destruction of vegetation in Riparian Zones 1 and 2 as defined in practice standard 391, Riparian Forest Buffer or in practice standard 390, Riparian Herbaceous Cover.

The spoil shall be placed so as not to endanger the stability of the ditch bank and shall not exceed 3 feet (ft) in height above the natural ground surface, except by special design. The finished surface shall slope away from the edge of the channel or berm as feasible.

For spoil spreading along channels, ditches, or canals, surfaces of spoil shall not be steeper than 4 horizontal (H) to 1 vertical (V) on the land side and 3 H to 1 V on the channel side if a berm is established. ***Where berms are required for stability or maintenance access, the minimum width of berm established shall be 8 feet.***

If the spoil is spread to the edge of the channel, the side slope of the channel side of the spoil shall be shaped to join the side slope of the ditch bank so that loose spoil will not roll or wash into the channel or ditch.

Establishment of vegetation shall begin immediately after spreading unless the spoil will be cropped. If spreading is completed at a time that is not conducive to the establishment of desired species, temporary erosion control measures, such as Mulching (code 484) shall be implemented immediately.

If the spoil material has physical or chemical characteristics that prevent the establishment of adequate vegetative cover, at least 6 inches (in.) of topsoil or other suitable soil material shall be placed over the spoil material. Species appropriate to the soil and climate conditions shall be used.

Spoil spreading for other construction sites shall be in accordance with the standard and specification of the applicable conservation practices. Spoil shall be spread to a designed form that blends visually with the landscape.

Contaminated spoil shall be evaluated and disposed of in an environmentally sound manner.

CONSIDERATIONS

Where appropriate, use spoil for direct or indirect human benefits such as blocking views, deflecting or redirecting wind or snow, or other uses that may be identified as desirable.

If spoil areas are established to permanent vegetation, use species that will provide suitable wildlife food and cover.

Place spoil as far as possible from the edge of the channel to minimize damage to riparian zone 3 [as defined in practice standard 393, Filter Strip, zone 3 is a strip or area of herbaceous vegetation situated between cropland, grazing land, or disturbed land (including forest land) and environmentally sensitive areas].

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for spoil spreading shall be in keeping with this standard and shall describe the requirements for properly applying the practice to achieve its intended purpose.

Specifications may be developed from NEH-20 Series, 700 Series, or other suitable materials, as appropriate.

Material from drainage ditches, channels or other excavations may be disposed of by spreading on adjacent land.

The shape of the finished surface shall conform to that specified on the drawings.

Construction shall be carried out in such a manner that air and water pollution, and soil erosion are kept to a minimum and within legal limits.

The site shall be prepared for spoil spreading by removing vegetation and debris. The area should be compacted prior to placement of spoil to assure minimum settlement of the completed surface.

The following steps shall be taken to comply with this specification:

- 1. Place spoil to prevent sloughing, sliding, or washing of the spoil into an adjacent ditch or low area.***
- 2. Keep chemicals, fuels, lubricants, sewage, and waste materials out of drainage corridors.***
- 3. Establish vegetation as soon as possible on all disturbed areas.***
- 4. The completed job shall present a finished appearance in conformance with the design intent.***

.OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Inspect the spoil areas within six months after spreading, ***and annually thereafter.***

Fill or repair any ***settled areas***, excessive rills or gullies in the spoil. Reestablish vegetation as necessary on the repaired areas.

Mow the vegetation as necessary to maintain a dense, vigorous stand.

Control of undesirable species and/or noxious weeds shall be done as needed.