

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR
POND SEALING OR LINING
FLEXIBLE MEMBRANE**

CODE 521A

Name _____
Legal Desc. _____

Ident. No. _____
County _____

A properly operated and maintained pond lining is an asset to your farm. This liner was designed and installed to restrict, impede, and control seepage of water and contaminants from water and waste impoundment structures. The estimated life span of this installation is at least 20 years. The life of this installation can be ensured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program.

This practice will require you to perform periodic operation and maintenance for satisfactory performance. Here are some recommendations to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program.

General Recommendations

- Maintain the soil cover, if required, over the liner at the required thickness.
- Limit the use or travel of any equipment in the area of the liner.
- Prevent all livestock from accessing the area of the pond that has a liner.
- Maintain fences to prevent unauthorized human access or uncontrolled livestock grazing.
- Provide escape ramps or ropes to allow animals or humans a way to get out of ponds they unintentionally enter. This is critical for liners without a soil cover.

- Determine and eliminate causes of settlement or cracks in the soil as these weakened earthen sections could tear the liner. Immediately repair any damage.
- Develop leak detection monitoring procedures if such systems are required.
- Inspect the visible portions of the liner for tears, punctures, or other damage.
- Inspect the liner for damage by rodents or burrowing animals. Immediately repair any damage and take appropriate corrective actions to avoid further damage.
- Inspect the liner for ballooning which indicates the presence of gas beneath the liner.
- Immediately remove any debris that may harm or reduce the effectiveness of the flexible liner.
- Repair any damage caused by agitation, pumping operations, and the removal of solids and/or sludge.
- Remove/control trees and shrubs from the side slopes of the pond or waste impoundment to prevent the roots from penetrating the liner.
- Repair immediately any damage due to vandalism, vehicles, or livestock that has been done to any earthfills, inlets, outlets, or appurtenances. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for making repairs.

(more)

Specific Recommendations

If you need additional technical assistance to implement the operation and maintenance plan for this structure, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at your local USDA Service Center (listed in the telephone book under United States Government).