

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
PRACTICE SPECIFICATION
TERRACE
(FT)
CODE 600-S

INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

All dead furrows, ditches, rodent holes, or gullies shall be filled prior to, or as part of, construction of the terraces. All old terraces, fence rows, hedge rows, trees and other obstructions shall be removed as necessary to install a farmable system. Fill materials shall contain no frozen material, sod, or excessive crop residue. Fill shall not be placed on a frozen surface.

Terraces shall be constructed to designed alignment, grade, and cross section.

Any ditch or depression at the bottom of the backslope occurring naturally or caused by borrow operations shall be filled and shaped so that drainage will be away from the terrace.

Provisions must be made where underground conduits are located under terrace embankments to prevent piping. Mechanical compaction, water packing, or installation and backfill of conduits far enough ahead of terrace construction to allow adequate settlement, are methods that can be used. The installation methods and materials used for the inlet and conduit will meet the requirements of specification S-620.

When the terrace crosses a gully, ditch or depression, any existing vertical banks shall be shaped to a 1:1 slope or flatter. These voids shall then be backfilled with compacted fill to the original ground line.

Any additional borrow material beyond the designed channel excavations that may be required to construct embankments for Steep Frontslope, Steep Backslope and Narrow Base terraces shall be obtained downslope from the terrace and/or designated borrow areas approved by NRCS and the cooperater. Cuts and fills shall be made in such a manner to enhance topography while maintaining ability to safely maneuver farm equipment.

When necessary, topsoil is to be stockpiled and spread over excavations and other areas to facilitate restoration of productivity.

Compaction. All terraces that store water shall be built with compacted fill placed in approximately horizontal layers having a maximum thickness before compaction of 9 inches. Compaction will be accomplished by a minimum of one full pass of the wheels or tracks of the loaded hauling equipment, traveling in a direction parallel to the centerline of fill, over the entire surface of each layer being placed.

If compacted fill is required on non-storage terraces, it will be indicated on the data sheets.

The surface of the finished terrace shall be reasonably smooth and present a workmanlike finish.

Moisture. The following field tests will identify materials with sufficient moisture content for construction of all basins.

- A. For clays and silts, the moisture content shall be such that a ball formed with the hands does not crack or separate when struck sharply and will easily ribbon out between the thumb and finger.
- B. For sand-silt and sand-clay mixtures, the moisture shall be such that a mold can be formed but which readily breaks and crumbles with pressure.
- C. For sand containing a small percentage of clay or silt, moisture is not required to be adjusted.

The application of water to the fill materials shall be accomplished at the borrow area insofar as possible.