

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

**LINED WATERWAY OR OUTLET**

(ft)

CODE 468

**DEFINITION**

A waterway or outlet having an erosion-resistant lining of concrete, stone, or other permanent material. The lined section extends up the side slopes to a designed depth. The earth above the permanent lining may be vegetated or otherwise protected.

**PURPOSE**

To provide for safe disposal of runoff from other conservation structures or from natural concentrations of flow, without damage by erosion or flooding, where unlined or grassed waterways would be inadequate. Properly designed linings may also control seepage, piping, and sloughing or slides.

**CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES**

This practice applies if the following or similar conditions exist:

1. Concentrated runoff is of such that a lining is needed to control erosion.
2. Steep grades, wetness, prolonged base flow, seepage, or piping would cause erosion.
3. The location is of such that use by people or animals preclude use of vegetated waterways or outlets.
4. High-value property or adjacent facilities warrant the extra cost to contain design runoff in a limited space.
5. Soils are highly erosive or other soil or climatic conditions preclude using vegetation.
6. Installation of non-reinforced concrete or mortared flagstone linings, shall be made only

on low shrink-swell soils that are well drained or where subgrade drainage facilities are installed.

**CRITERIA**

**Capacity.** The minimum capacity shall be adequate to carry the peak rate of runoff from a 10-year frequency storm. Velocity shall be computed by using Manning's Formula with a coefficient of roughness "n" as follows:

Lining	"n" Value
Concrete	
Trowel finish	0.012 -.014
Float finish	.013 -.017
Gunite	.016 -.022
Flagstone	.020 -.025
Riprap	Determine from figure 1

**Velocity.** Maximum design velocity shall be as shown in figure 2. Except for short transition sections, flow in the range of 0.7 to 1.3 of the critical slope must be avoided unless the channel is straight. Velocities exceeding critical shall be restricted to straight reaches.

Waterways or outlets with velocities exceeding critical shall discharge into an energy dissipater to reduce velocity to less than critical.

**Cross section.** The cross section shall be triangular, parabolic, or trapezoidal. Cross section made of monolithic concrete may be rectangular.

**Freeboard.** The minimum freeboard for lined waterways or outlets shall be 0.25 ft above design high water in areas where erosion-resistant vegetation cannot be grown adjacent to the paved side slopes. No freeboard is

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resource Conservation Service. New Hampshire supplement is underlined.

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required if vegetation can be grown and maintained.

**Side slope.** The steepest permissible side slopes, horizontal to vertical, shall be:

Non-reinforced concrete:

- Hand-placed, formed concrete
  - Height of lining, 1.5 ft or less .....Vertical
- Hand-placed screened concrete or mortared in place flagstone
  - Height of lining, less than 2 ft .....1 to 1
  - Height of lining, more than 2 ft .....2 to 1

Slip form concrete:

- Height of lining, less than 3 ft .....1 to 1
- Rock riprap .....2 to 1

**Lining thickness.** Minimum lining thickness shall be:

- Concrete.....4 in. (In most problem areas, minimum thickness shall be 5 in. with welded wire fabric reinforcing.)
- Rock riprap.....Maximum stone size plus thickness of filter or bedding
- Flagstone.....4 in., including mortar bed

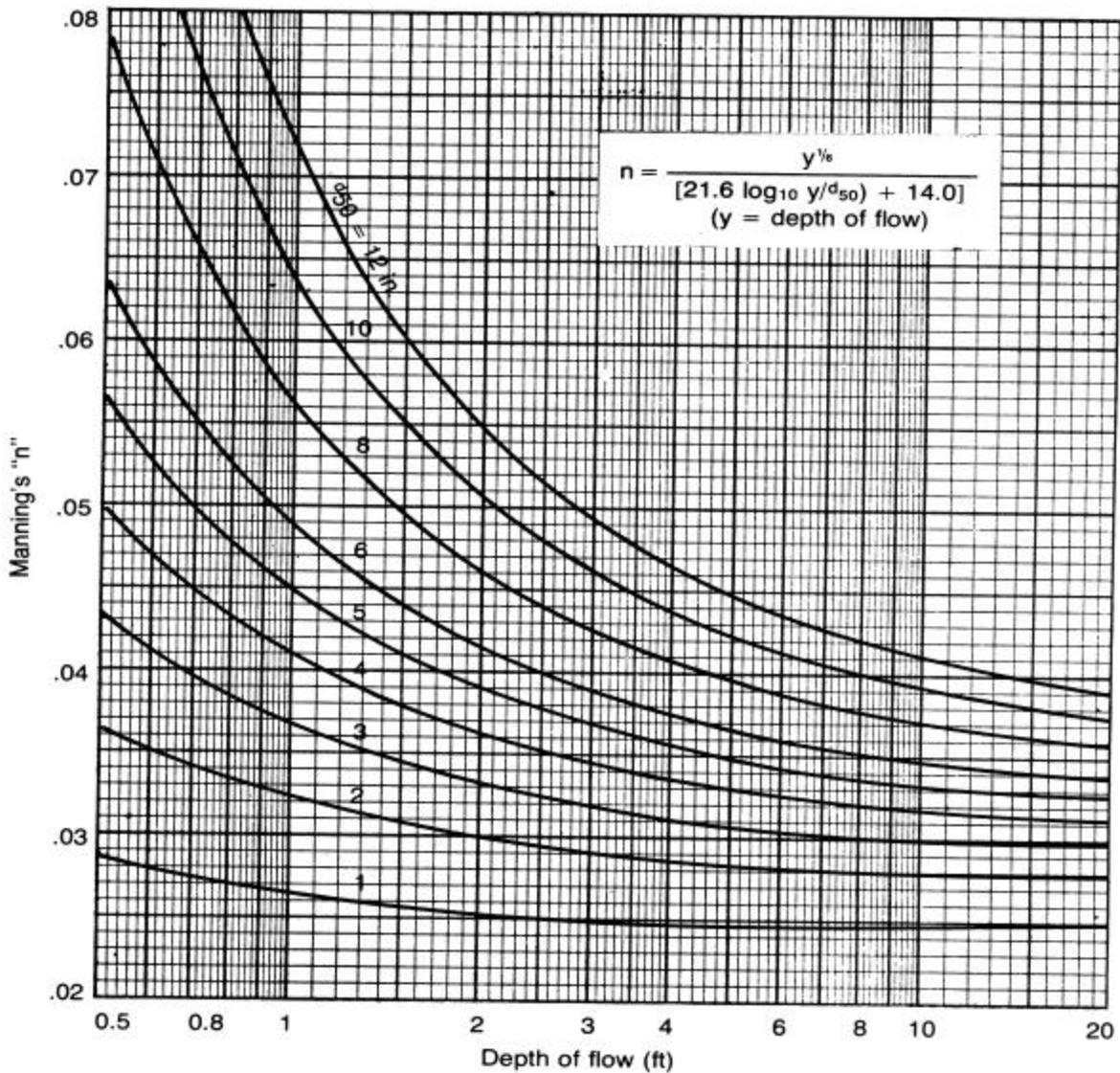


Figure 1.—Values of n for riprap-lined channels, d<sub>50</sub> size vs depth of flow.

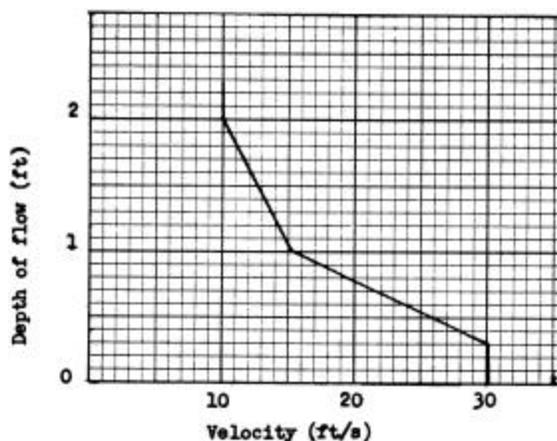


Figure 2.—Maximum velocity vs depth of flow.

**Related structures.** Side inlets, drop structures, and energy dissipaters shall meet the hydraulic and structural requirements for the site.

**Filters or bedding.** Filters or bedding shall be used to prevent piping. Drains shall be used to reduce uplift pressure and to collect water, as required. Filters, bedding, and drains shall be designed according to SCS standards. Weep holes may be used with drains if needed.

**Concrete.** Concrete used for lining shall be proportioned so that it is plastic enough for thorough consolidation and stiff enough to stay in place on side slopes. A dense durable product shall be required. Specify a mix that can be certified as suitable to produce a minimum strength of at least 3,000 lb/in.<sup>2</sup>. Cement used shall be Portland cement, Types I, II, or if required, Types IV or V. Aggregate used shall have a maximum size of 1-1/2 in.

**Mortar.** Mortar used for mortared in-place flagstone shall consist of a workable mix of cement, sand, and water with a water-cement ratio of not more than 6 gallons of water per bag of cement.

**Contraction joints.** Contraction joints in concrete linings, if required, shall be formed transversely to

a depth of about one-third the thickness of the lining at a uniform spacing in the range of 10 to 15 ft. Provide for uniform support to the joint to prevent unequal settlement.

**Rock riprap or flagstone.** Stone used for riprap shall be dense and hard enough to withstand exposure to air, water, freezing, and thawing. Flagstone shall be flat for ease of placement and have the strength to resist exposure and breaking.

## PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

1. Effects upon components of the water budget, especially effects on volumes and rates of runoff, infiltration, evaporation, transpiration, deep percolation, and ground water recharge.
2. Variability of the practice's effect caused by seasonal and climatic changes.
3. Filtering effects of vegetation on the movement of sediment and dissolved and sediment attached substances will be evaluated.
4. Effects on the visual quality of the water resources.
5. Short-term and construction-related effects on the quality of water resources.

## OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Provisions must be made for timely maintenance to insure lined waterways function properly. Any build up of debris or sediment must be removed promptly to avoid damage to the structure.

## PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for constructing lined waterways or outlets shall be in keeping with this standard and shall describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve its intended purposes.

## **LINED WATERWAY OR OUTLET SPECIFICATIONS**

The foundation area shall be cleared of trees, stumps, roots, sod, loose rock, or other objectionable material.

The cross section shall be excavated to the neat lines and grades as shown on the plans. Over excavated areas shall be backfilled with moist soil compacted to the density of the surrounding material.

No abrupt deviations from design grade or horizontal alignment shall be permitted.

Concrete linings shall be placed to the thickness shown on the plans and shall be finished in a workmanlike manner. Provisions shall be made to

protect freshly placed concrete and to insure proper curing.

Filter, bedding, and rock riprap shall be placed to line and grade and in the manner specified. Riprap shall be placed so that it does not reduce the design section more than 10 percent.

Construction operations shall be done in such a manner that erosion and air and water pollution are minimized and held within reasonable and legal limits. The completed job shall be workmanlike and present a good appearance. All disturbed areas shall be vegetated or otherwise provided with a cover to protect the areas against soil erosion.