

DIVERSION

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 362



DIVERSION

A channel constructed across the slope with a supporting ridge on the lower side.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice applies to all types of diversions except floodwater diversions (400) and diversion dams (348). The general purpose of this type of diversion is to divert excess water from one area for use or safe disposal in other areas.

This practice applies to sites where:

1. Runoff damages cropland, grazing land, farmsteads, feedlots, or conservation practices such as terraces or stripcropping.
2. Surface flow and/or shallow subsurface flow caused by seepage is causing damage on sloping cropland.
3. Runoff is excessive and available for use on nearby sites.
4. A diversion is required as part of a pollution abatement system.
5. A diversion is required to control erosion and runoff on urban or developing areas and construction or mining sites.

The channel may be parabolic, V-shaped, or trapezoidal. The channel grades may be uniform or variable as long as the velocity is nonerosive considering the soil and planned vegetation or lining. The location of the diversion shall be determined by outlet conditions, topography, land use, farming operations, and soil type. Diversion layout in a cultivated field should be as compatible as practical with modern farm equipment.

Diversions must have a safe and stable outlet with adequate capacity. The outlet may be a grassed waterway, paved area, vegetated area, a grade stabilization structure, a stable watercourse, underground outlet, or a combination of these structures. The outlet must be able to convey the runoff to a point where outflow will not cause damage.

If the outlet is a vegetated area, the vegetation must be established before constructing the diversion.

Additional information including design criteria and specifications are on file in the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.