

# Divert Up-slope Water

## What is it?

Design surface drainage up-slope of building and construction sites to divert runoff away from the site. Where practical and particularly where stormwater runoff from more than 0.5 hectares feeds into the work site, divert up-slope water around the disturbed or active work area.

## Why is it important?

Sediment generated from erosion on building and construction sites can be a major source of pollution to local waterways. Follow the practices discussed in this fact sheet and you will minimise erosion from your site, meet your legal requirements and help protect our waterways.

## WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

### Before starting site works:

Look at the site plans to identify site areas where stormwater can be diverted around the disturbed or active work area. Stormwater can be diverted with the use of small diversion drains. Note that the stormwater must not be diverted onto adjacent properties; instead it must discharge the work site at a legal point of discharge. Diversion drains need to be properly designed to ensure that they can convey water without overflowing or accumulating sediment. Document the diversion drains on your Soil and Water Management Plan (if required) (see Fact Sheet 3). Ensure workers on-site are aware of the need to maintain the diversion drains. Do not dig diversion drains on dispersive soils (see Fact Sheet 4), instead build soil berms.

### Installing the control measures:

**Diversion drains:** A diversion drain is a channel constructed on the high side of a site to divert surface runoff from rainwater that would otherwise flow down onto the disturbed or active work area.

- 1) The channel should be about 150 mm deep with a curved shape.
- 2) Place the excavated soil from the channel on the down-slope side to increase the diversion drain's capacity.

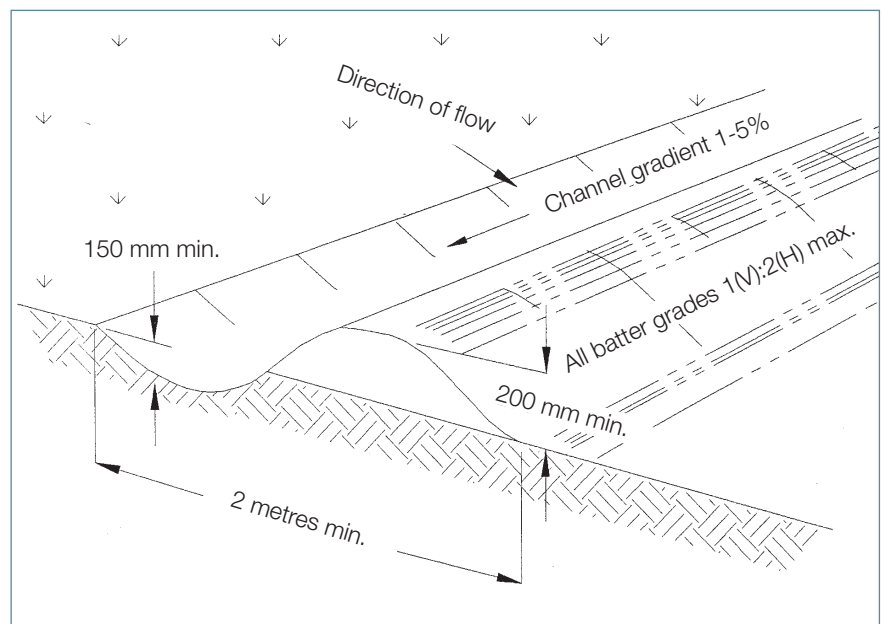


Figure 7A: Example of a diversion drain.

## Fact Sheet 7

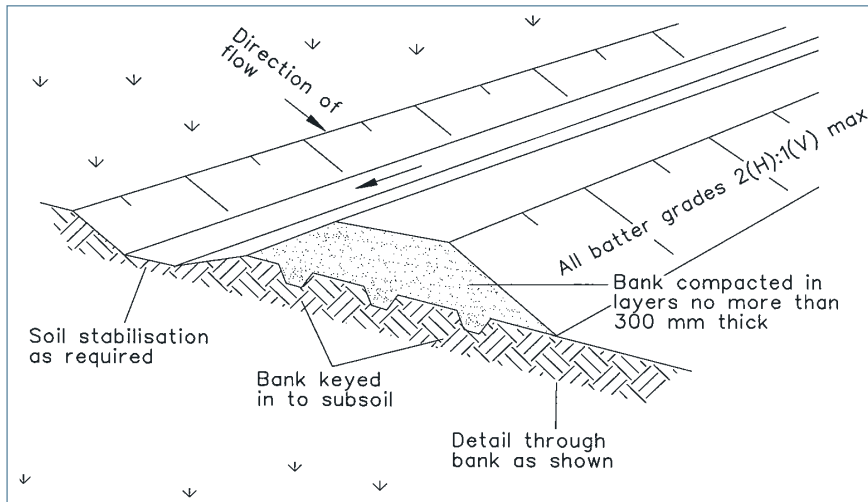


Figure 7B: Example of a diversion drain for high flow.

- 3) The diversion drain should divert flows to a stable drainage line to ensure that the channel does not itself cause erosion where it discharges.
- 4) The diversion drain should be kept clean and free of plantings and mulch as this will lead to the deposition of sediment that obstructs water flow and causes water to breach the channel and create unwanted erosion.

**Level spreader:** Level spreaders are generally used at the outlet of diversion channels. A level spreader is a wide, level overflow sill built across a slope. It allows even spread of water flow so velocities are reduced and soil erosion is avoided. This should only be constructed to release water to areas where the:

- 1) Water flow will not become concentrated.
- 2) Soil is stabilised and the site is not within the path of construction activities.
- 3) Ground remains well-vegetated.
- 4) Discharged water flow will be slow moving.

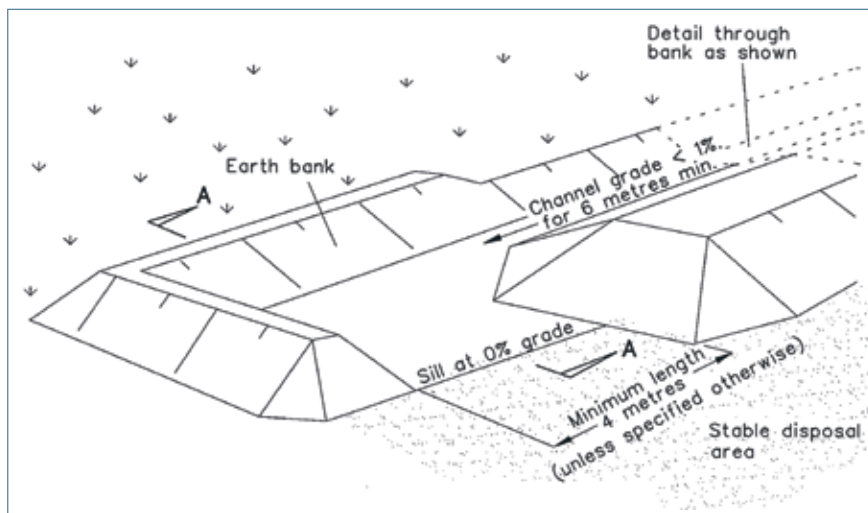


Figure 7C: Example of a level spreader used to release minor concentrated flows as sheet flow.

In some cases such as on steep slopes or where there are high flow velocities, a grass or geotextile fabric lined channel may be required to return the diverted flow to the stormwater system or a stable drainage line.

### Maintaining the control measures:

Check diversion drains, level spreaders and discharge areas for signs of erosion.

### List of fact sheets

1. Soil & Water Management on Large Building & Construction Sites
2. Soil & Water Management on Standard Building & Construction Sites
3. Soil & Water Management Plans
4. Dispersive Soils – High Risk of Tunnel Erosion
5. Minimise Soil Disturbance
6. Preserve Vegetation
- 7. Divert Up-slope Water**
8. Erosion Control Mats & Blankets
9. Protect Service Trenches & Stockpiles
10. Early Roof Drainage Connection
11. Scour Protection – Stormwater Pipe Outfalls & Check Dams
12. Stabilised Site Access
13. Wheel Wash
14. Sediment Fences & Fibre Rolls
15. Protection of Stormwater Pits
16. Manage Concrete, Brick & Tile Cutting
17. Sediment Basins
18. Dust Control
19. Site Revegetation

### Remember:

Everyone working on building and construction sites has a responsibility to prevent pollution. If you do have an accident and pollution occurs you are required by law to notify the site supervisor. If the site supervisor cannot be contacted, workers should immediately notify the local council so they can work with you to minimise any harm to the environment.

### Acknowledgement:

Text in this brochure has been obtained and modified from the "Do It Right On Site" brochure series, kindly provided by the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils. Figures 7A, 7B & 7C from Landcom 2004 "Soils & Construction Volume I Managing Urban Stormwater (4th edition)".

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