

## 3.2 COMPOST FILTER BERMS

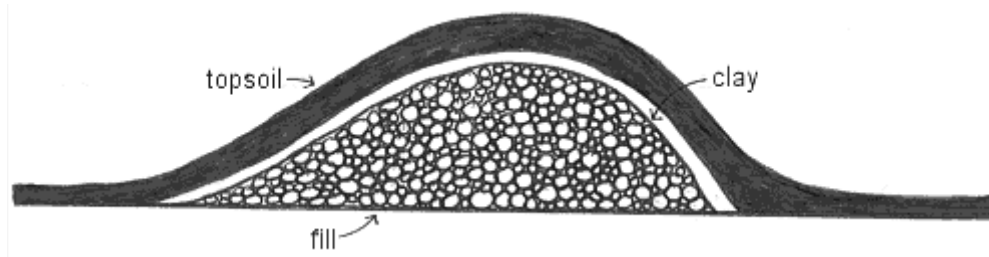


Figure 3.4. Berm (Source: Urban Resources and Borderland Alliance Network)

### Overview

**Description:** A temporary or permanent ridge of soil located in such a manner as to channel water to a desired location.

**Problem identification:** Sheet and gully erosion occurs on slopes where runoff velocities and outlet locations are not controlled.

**Design purpose:** To prevent runoff from going over the top of a cut and eroding the slope; may be used to direct runoff away from a construction site, divert clean water from a disturbed area, or reduce the size of a drainage area.

**Associated practices:** Requires adequate down drains to dispose of runoff when used on slopes.

**Installation:** Compaction of the soil is necessary. The minimum recommended grade is 1%. As soon as the compost filter berm is completed, it should be fertilized, seeded, and mulched. Earth berms shall have an outlet that functions with a minimum of erosion. The runoff shall be conveyed to a sediment trapping device.

Table 3.1. Maximum filter berm spacing for berm size of 1' x 2' (height x width)

Slope	Slope length
0%–2%	125'
2%–5%	75'
5%–10%	50'

**Maintenance/inspection:** Inspect after each precipitation event for erosion. Repairs must be done after each precipitation event. The outlets always need protection. Vegetation provides the best protection.

**Design life:** Six months.

**Estimated cost:** \$2.80 per linear ft for small compost filter berms (2004); \$8.40 per linear ft for large compost filter berms.

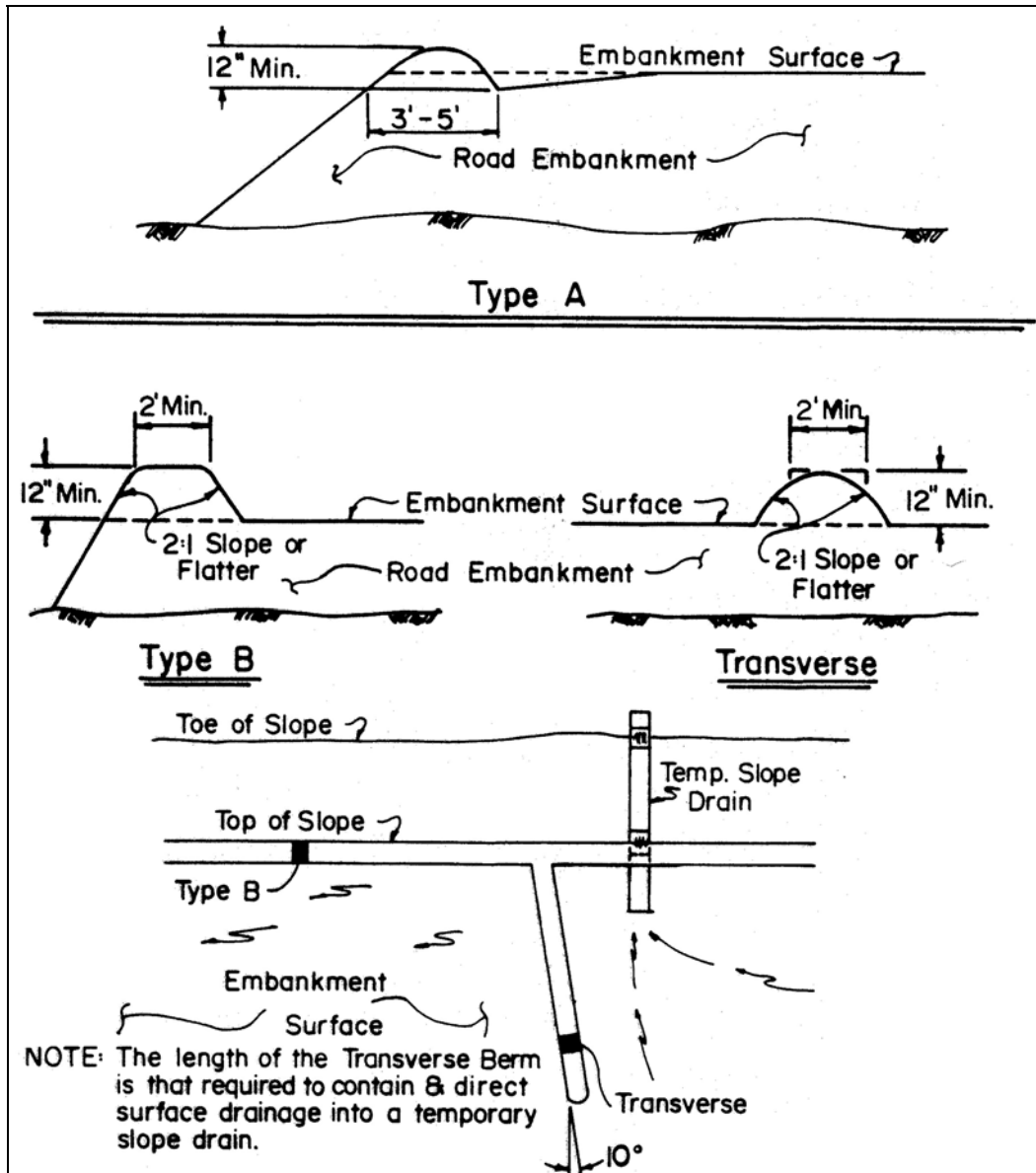


Figure 3.5. Temporary berms (Source: West Virginia DOT)

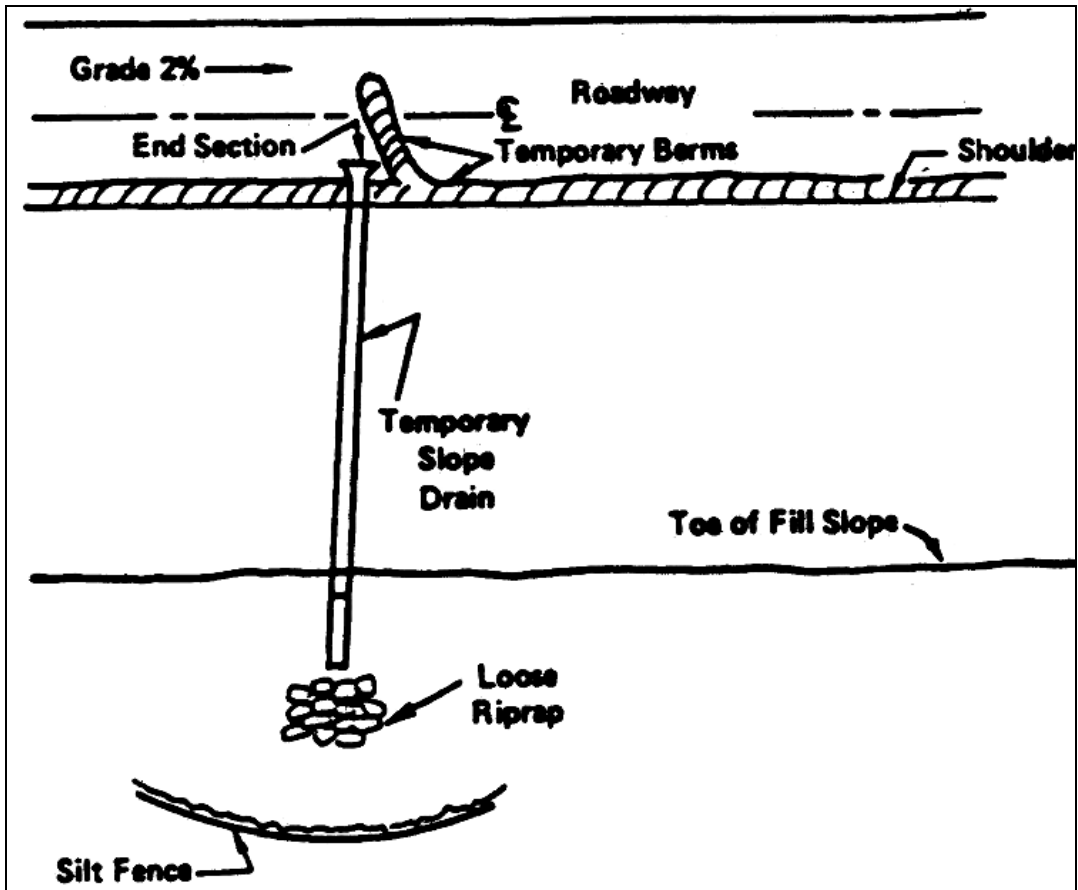


Figure 3.6. Temporary berm and temporary slope drain system (Source: Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering, Iowa State University)