

DITCH CHECK



Estimated Cost
\$75 - \$115
per linear foot

Alternatives

- ◆ Fiber Roll
- ◆ Stone/sand bag berm

Notes:

A ditch check is a small barrier constructed of stone, a double row of straw bales or approved engineered products, placed across a swale or drainage ditch. By reducing the speed at which the water flows through the channel, ditch check allow sediment to settle and reduce erosion.

USAGE

Ditch checks are used in constructed swales or drainage ditches where grading activity is occurring. This Best Management Practice (BMP) is to be used as a temporary measure to control erosion of the channel until permanent stabilization is complete, unless intended to be part of a permanent stormwater management plan.

Ditch checks can never be used in streams without permission from DNR.

BENEFITS

- ◆ Promotes sedimentation behind the dam
- ◆ Prevents erosion by reducing the velocity of flow

LIMITATIONS

- ◆ Ditch checks installed in grass lined channels may kill the vegetation if water is ponded for extended time periods or excessive siltation occurs.
- ◆ Mowing operations may throw stones from ditch checks causing a potential safety hazard

MAINTENANCE

- ◆ Inspect BMPs weekly and after rainfall of ½ inch or greater within 24 hours
- ◆ Replace missing rock, bags or bales that have degraded or become damaged
- ◆ Unless incorporated into a permanent stormwater management system, ditch checks should be removed once the final grading and stabilization is applied.
- ◆ Accumulated sediment reaching ½ the height of the barrier must be periodically removed to maintain effectiveness

DITCH CHECK



PERMANENT STONE DITCH CHECK

Specific design,
installation and
Performance
Requirements must be
met for all BMPs.
These requirements can
be found in the DNR
Technical Standards

A link to the technical
standards and WisDOT's
PAL can be found at
NEWWaterWisconsin.org

Notes:

CHARACTERISTICS OF A PROPERLY INSTALLED DITCH CHECK

- ◆ Height shall be between 10 and 16 inches for manufactured or biodegradable materials and 36 inches for stone
 - ◆ Center of ditch check must be lower than the sides
 - ◆ Stone ditch checks have a top width of 2ft minimum and walls with slopes of 2:1 (2 horizontal to 1 vertical)
-
- ◆ One ditch check shall be installed for every two feet of drop in the channel
-
- ◆ Ditch checks shall be placed as to not cause damage or inconvenience to nearby areas if ponding occurs
 - ◆ Fabric is placed at the base of the BMP and extended a minimum of 6 ft to prevent scour and erosion at the base of the BMP
 - ◆ The base of a rock or stone ditch check should be keyed into the soil 6 inches
 - ◆ Stone ditch checks need to be constructed of a well-graded angular stone, refer to DNR technical standards for specifics.
 - ◆ Ditch checks may be constructed of other materials capable of withstanding the water flow in the channel - manufactured products listed in WisDOT's PAL are approved.