## **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



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# **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:

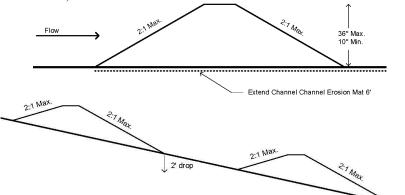
PERMANENT STONE DITCH CHECK

## 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

One ditch check shall be installed for every two feet of drop in the channel

Stone ditch checks have a top width of 2ft minimum and walls with slopes of 2:1
 (2 horizontal to 1 vertical)



- ◆ 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.



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