

# Intercepting Ditches

Design Manual  
Chapter 3  
Cross Sections

Originally Issued: 03-06-03  
Revised: 02-23-17

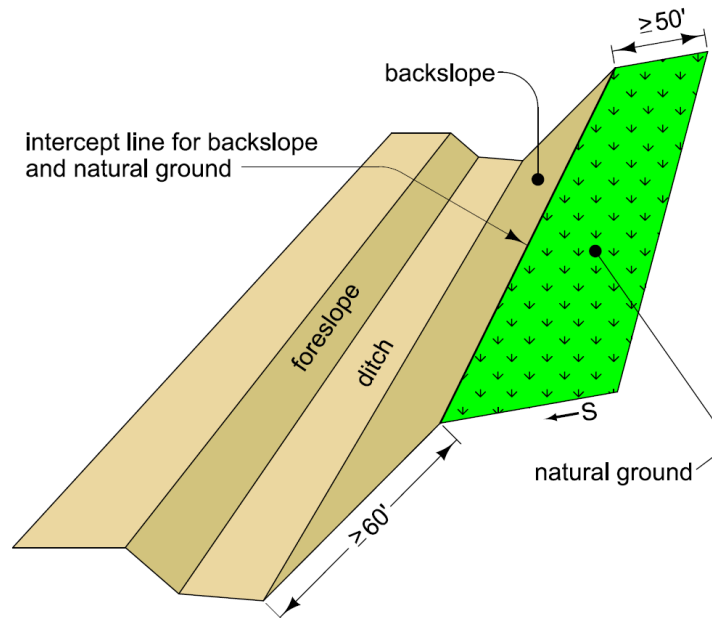
Intercepting ditches are used to more gradually let water down into the roadway ditch. Intercepting ditches consist of two types: permanent and temporary.

## Permanent Intercepting Ditches

Permanent intercepting ditches consist of a dike constructed behind the intercept point of the backslope, see Detail [4101](#). They are installed to address soil stability problems. The Soils Design Section determines the need for and location of intercepting ditches.

## Temporary Intercepting Ditches

Temporary intercepting ditches consist of longitudinal silt fence placed behind the intercept point of the backslope, see Detail [4102](#). They are installed for sediment control and are only needed until vegetation has been established. Temporary intercepting ditches will be required only when the length of the backslope is 60 feet or more and 50 feet or more of existing ground slopes toward the backslope, see Figure 1.



**Figure 1:** Determining the need for a temporary intercepting ditch.

Rock letdowns will be installed only if a continual erosion problem is identified by the field.

Designers will need to coordinate with the Soils Design Section to ensure permanent and temporary intercepting ditches are not being placed in the same area.

## Determining Temporary Intercepting Ditch Locations in GEOPAK

To determine temporary ditch locations, first locate areas where the backslope exceeds 60 feet. Copy the intercept line of the backslope with natural ground and move it 50 feet behind the intercept line, see

Figure 1. Check the direction of flow. If flow across the natural ground is towards the backslope, place a temporary intercepting ditch.

## Rock Flumes for Intercepting Ditches

Rock flumes (see [EC-301](#)) are used to let the water down the backslope. Work with the [Agronomist](#) to determine locations for rock flumes.

# Chronology of Changes to Design Manual Section: 003G-002 Intercepting Ditches

2/23/2017	Revised Rewrote section to add in information for temporary intercepting ditches.
9/13/2012	Revised Removed metric dimensions. Added hyperlinks.
1/23/2004	Previously Updated.