



## Conservation Practice Overview

September 2020

### Rock Wall Terrace (Code 555)

A rock wall terrace is a retaining wall constructed of rock across the slope to form and support a bench terrace on sloping land.

#### Practice Information

Rock wall terraces are applicable to sloping land suitable for cultivation where the soil depth is adequate for benching. The slopes can be as much as 50 percent, which means each 100 feet across the slope would have an elevation difference of approximately 50 feet. Therefore, this practice can provide acceptable stability on very steep cultivated soils.



The purpose of a rock wall terrace is to stabilize steeply sloping land to allow cultivation with an acceptable level of erosion. In addition to erosion control, the practice provides improved water-use efficiency and other favorable hydrologic effects.

Rock wall terraces require careful design, layout, and construction.

A rock wall terrace will require maintenance over the expected life of the practice.

#### Common Associated Practices

NRCS Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Rock Wall Terrace (Code 555) is commonly applied with other conservation practices, such as NRCS CPSs Conservation Crop Rotation (Code 328), Terrace (Code 600), Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (Code 345), Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till (Code 329), Grassed Waterway (412), and Underground Outlet (620).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.