



Conservation Practice Overview

July 2021

Roof Runoff Structure (Code 558)

A structure or system of structures to collect, control, and convey precipitation runoff from a roof.

Practice Information

The practice applies where roof runoff from precipitation needs to be diverted away from structures or contaminated areas. Roof runoff water that becomes contaminated by contact with animal waste has to be stored and then transported to the field for land application. Diverting clean water away from animal waste concentration areas reduces the amount of liquid that must be stored and utilized.



Uncontrolled roof runoff can also cause soil erosion. Collecting the runoff and transporting it to a stable outlet reduces soil erosion and improves water quality.

Roof runoff water can also be collected and used for other purposes. Nonpotable water can be used for irrigation. Potable water storage structures must be constructed of materials and in a manner that will not increase the contamination of the stored water. Roof runoff that is collected and stored for potable use must be treated prior to consumption. It must be tested periodically to ensure that adequate quality is maintained. The use of roof runoff water for livestock water must be evaluated on an individual basis. Components of this practice can include gutters, downspouts, rock-filled trenches or pads, and subsurface drains or outlets.

This practice has a minimum expected life of 15 years. Roof runoff structures must be kept clean and free of obstructions that reduce flow. Maintenance requirements include regular inspections and repair of damaged components.

Common Associated Practices

NRCS Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Roof Runoff Structure (Code 558) can be applied to new or existing roofs. It is commonly applied with other conservation practices, such as NRCS CPSs Waste Storage Facility (Code 313) and Composting Facility (Code 317).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.