

## Conservation Practice Standard Overview

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### Rock Barrier (555)

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

#### Practice Information

Rock barriers 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 barrier 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 barriers require careful design, layout, and construction.

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



#### Common Associated Practices

Rock Barrier (555) is commonly applied with conservation practices, such as Conservation Crop Rotation (328), Terrace (600), Residue Management (344), Grassed Waterway (412), and Underground Outlet (620).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.