

# Turnouts



## What's a turnout?

Turnouts direct stormwater off of paved or gravel roads into nearby plants. This reduces erosion and treats stormwater by preventing channelized flow and filters stormwater through plants that absorb pollutants.



## Materials

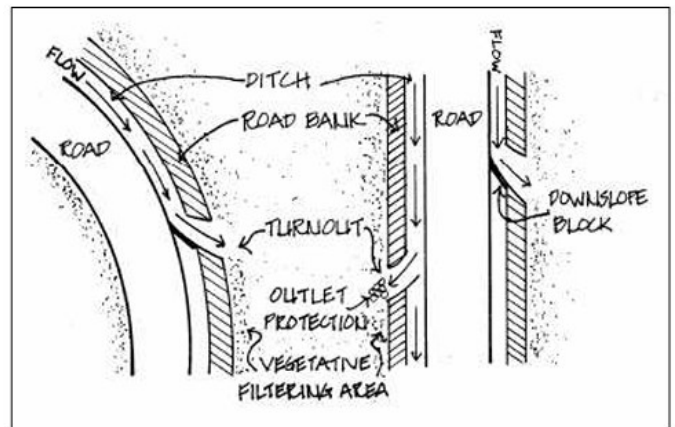
- Conservation seed mix and hay or erosion control blanket to stabilize turnouts with less than a 5% slope
- Non-woven geotextile fabric
- 4"-6" angular stone riprap to stabilize steeper slopes and use as a level-lip spreader at end of the turnout

## Installation

1. **Create turnouts** using a backhoe bucket, a bulldozer blade, or a handheld shovel. Turnouts should intersect at the same depth as the road shoulder or ditch they are coming off of, and gently slope down and away from the road.
2. **Install turnouts frequently** enough to adequately handle large storm events. Place turnouts closer together on steeper slopes.
3. **Consult abutting property owners** to ensure diverted runoff will not adversely impact their property.
4. **Stabilize turnouts** using seed and hay or erosion control blankets. Use angular stone placed over non-woven geotextile fabric to stabilize steeper slopes or areas receiving greater flow. A flared stone 'level-lip spreader' should be created at the end of the turnout to evenly spread stormwater into the vegetated area.

## Maintenance

- Inspect for erosion and remove any accumulated debris from turnouts after storms.
- Confirm that water flows evenly into the vegetation, and does not form an erosive channel. Shift stones to stop any channelized flow.



Maine Gravel Road Maintenance Manual

Any road, even properly constructed ones, alter natural drainage patterns. The biggest concern is to get water off the road surface as quickly as possible. When surface water is not drained off the road, it can lead to washouts, muddy conditions, and potholes.