

LAND GRADING



What is Land Grading?

Land grading is a component of surface stabilization and entails reshaping the surface of the land to grades determined by engineering survey and layout. Permanent vegetation is then established to stabilize the soil. This reduces surface runoff, prevents erosion, and creates a more stable landscape.



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Do You Need To Grade Your Land?

- Need for slope stabilization
- Existing or expected erosion and/or runoff problem
- Poor drainage of surface water
- Ordinary conservation treatments are not sufficient for stabilization
- If left untreated, could cause significant off-site damage

Considerations:

- Before beginning any project, check homeowner association covenants, as well as local, county, and state ordinances. Do not work in a drainage, utility, or other easement without the proper permits. Also, call the Indiana Underground Plant Protection Service (1-800-382-5544) to identify buried utilities.
- Land grading is a major source of sedimentation and must be carefully planned and carried out
 - * Sequence the construction of a project; if possible, do the work in phases to prevent opening up a large area at once
 - * Create buffer strips of undisturbed vegetation between construction areas and bodies of water
 - * Use erosion control measures during grading and reseed areas as soon as possible
- There must be sufficient area for machinery and soil to move
- May need to remove or add soil around trees
- Costly
- Requires maintenance
 - * Check graded areas after heavy rainfalls and remove sediment from diversions and repair washouts or gullies

Benefits to Grading:

- Reduces or prevents erosion
- Increases infiltration
- Directs surface runoff
- Allows for simpler landscaping or construction



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For more information, including a list of excavating and land grading contractors or recommendations specific to your site, contact the Hamilton County SWCD.