

DIVERSION FURROWS



Diversion furrow leading to a catchpit

also called:	used in:	
• feeder channels	gardens	✓
• trenches	fields	
• run-on ditches	grazing land	
• ex-field RWH		

A diversion furrow directs rainwater runoff from gullies, grasslands or hard surfaces (such as paths or roads) to a cropped area or to a storage tank. If a diversion furrow is in an area of heavy foot traffic, it can be filled with a porous material such as gravel so that it does not become a tripping hazard.



Diversion furrow leading to trench beds

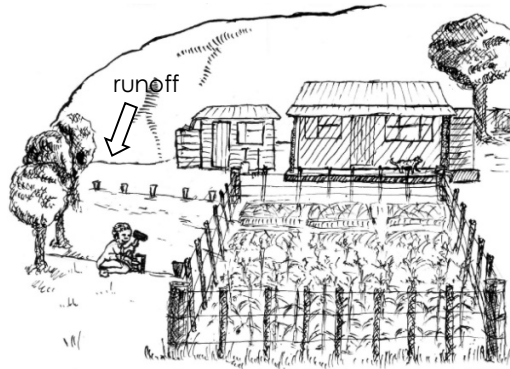


Diversion furrow leading to a trench bed

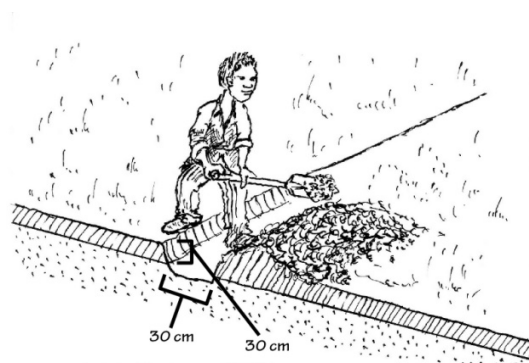
Soil	Slope	Rainfall	Tools & Equipment
Any soil. Where soils erode easily and on steep slopes, the diversion furrow should slope gently downwards to avoid erosion.	Any slope. On steeper slopes, care must be taken to prevent erosion.	Any rainfall. In higher rainfall areas, measures to prevent erosion may be needed.	spade* pegs and string A-frame <i>*essential</i>

METHOD

1. Look at the ground when it rains to see where the rain water runs, and decide which of this water you want to divert. Mark out a route for your furrow which will intercept this water and carry it to the garden, field or storage tank.



2. Dig a trench about 30 cm wide and 30 cm deep. Put the soil on the downslope side of the trench.



3. Make sure that the furrow leads into the rainwater harvesting method being used in the field or garden. In the case of a tank, the furrow will typically lead into a small catchpit which traps sediment and debris so that it does not enter the tank.

