



INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

LANDLOK® 450 TURF REINFORCEMENT MAT



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Installation Guidelines for Landlok® 450 Turf Reinforcement Mat (TRM)

Thank you for purchasing the Landlok® 450 Turf Reinforcement Mat (TRM) by Propex Operating Company, LLC (Propex). This document provides installation and maintenance guidelines for Landlok 450 used as slope armoring to increase earthen slope resiliency. Landlok 450 provides permanent erosion protection on either the flood side and/ or protected side of an earthen slope.

Temporary securing pins (pins) are used during installation to hold Landlok 450 in place. Pins also promote vegetation establishment keeping Landlok 450 in intimate contact with the soil.

Landlok 450 is an engineered solution with a unique design for each specific project. While Propex has made every effort to ensure general validity, this information should not be used for a specific application without independent professional examination and verification of its suitability, applicability, and accuracy. The information provided herein is for general information only, and is intended to present installation guidance. Project specific contract documents take precedence when pin placements are different than what is represented in this document. Depending upon the critical nature of the structure to be armored, work restrictions may be in place such as limiting work based on growing seasons, weather patterns, etc. Work should be performed under the provisions set forth for the specific project. Propex Engineering Services is available for support during installation to consult for solving constructability issues encountered in specific applications. Please feel free to call our technical support hotline at (423) 553-2450.

BEFORE INSTALLATION BEGINS

- *Coordinate with a Propex Representative:* A pre-construction meeting is suggested with the construction team and a representative from Propex. This meeting should be scheduled by the contractor with at least a two week notice.
- *Gather the Tools Needed:* Tools that you will need to install Landlok 450 include a pair of industrial shears to cut Landlok 450, tape measure, and mallet or hammer.
- *Determine how to Establish Vegetation:* The method of vegetation establishment should be determined prior to the start of installation. Different vegetation establishment methods require different orders of installation. Refer to *Establish Vegetation* for further guidance.

PREPARE THE SITE

It is recommended during all stages of site preparation that disturbed soils remain unprotected for not more than a single day. Depending on project size this may require progressive site preparation during installation.

1. Grade and compact the area on the slope where Landlok 450 will be installed. The slope surface should be uniform and smooth, having all rocks, clods, vegetation or other objects removed so that during *Landlok 450 Laydown*, Landlok 450 comes in direct, intimate contact with the slope surface.
2. Prepare the area to be armored with Landlok 450 by loosening the topsoil to promote better vegetation establishment. This may be accomplished with a rotary tiller on slopes 3:1 or flatter. For slopes greater than 3:1, prepare topsoil in a safe manner.
3. Excavate a Crest of Slope (COS) trench 12 in x 12 in (300 mm x 300 mm) minimum at a distance of 3 ft (900 mm) from the crest of the slope. (Figure 1).



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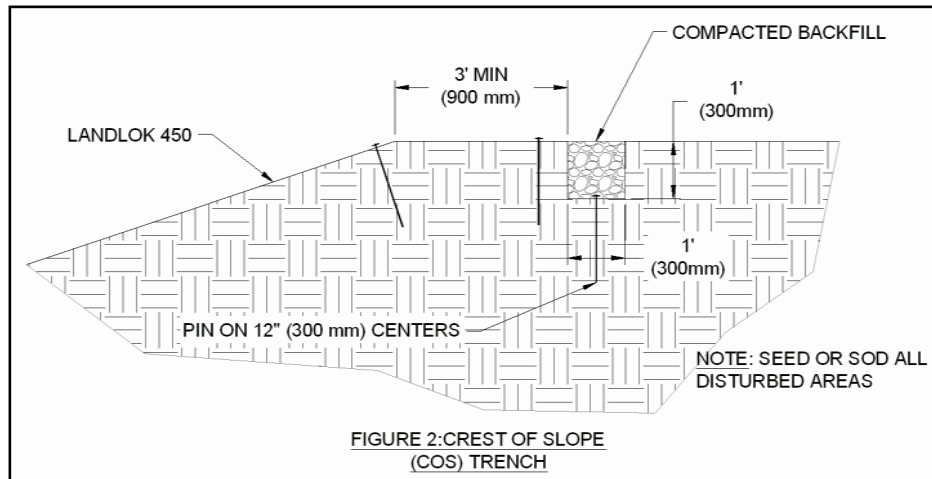


Figure 1: Crest of Slope (COS) Trench

4. Excavate a Toe of Slope (TOS) trench 12 in x 12 in (300 mm x 300 mm) minimum at a minimum distance of 5 ft (1.5 m) from the toe of the slope. (Figure 2)
5. If seeding, refer to *Vegetation Establishment* for additional considerations during site preparation.

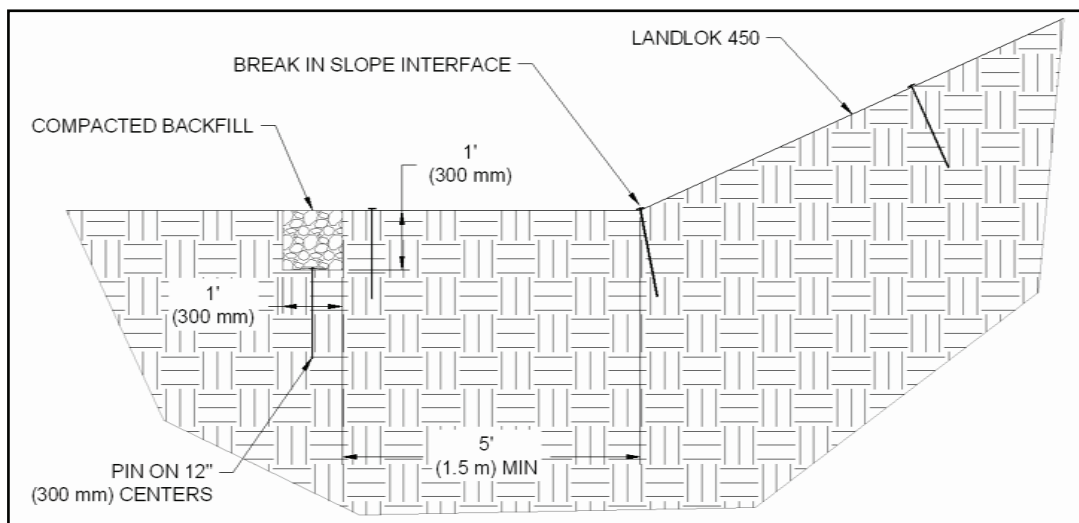


Figure 2: Toe of Slope (TOS) Trench



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LANDLOK 450 LAYDOWN

1. Begin the Landlok 450 laydown process by starting with the downstream / downwind end of the site. To ensure proper pinning of the overlapped areas the proceeding roll width must be laid out before the current roll width can be pinned with exception to the final roll width. For straight sections of a slope, Landlok 450 panel lengths should be long enough to construct COS and TOS trenches while also covering the surface of the slope being armored (Figure 12). Panel edges should rest approximately perpendicular to the slope center line. For best results, panels of Landlok 450 should be continuous and free from seams or roll end overlaps that are parallel to the centerline of the slope. Panel edge overlapping should follow a pattern of placing each proceeding panel's edge overtop the previous panel edge, shingling the panels in the direction of the water flow or prevailing wind.
2. Starting at the COS trench, lay Landlok 450 roll so that the roll ends point towards the crest of the slope (Figure 3), with a 3 inch (75 mm) overlap created at adjacent panel edge locations. Ensure that adjacent panel edges maintain a minimum 3 inch overlap during *Landlok 450 laydown*. (Figure 8)

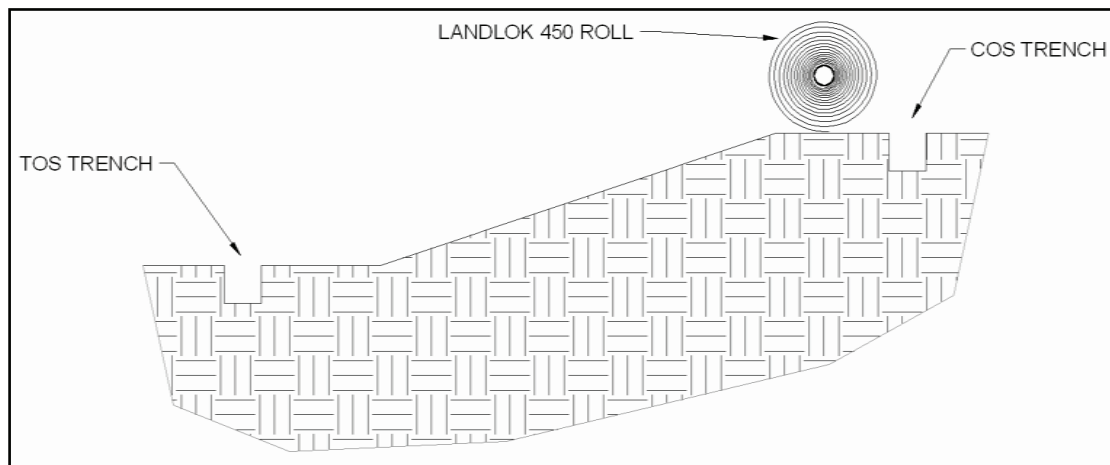


Figure 3: Crest of Slope (COS) Trench Alignment

3. Secure Landlok 450 with pins in the COS trench. Pins should be made of steel with a 0.20 in (5 mm) minimum diameter, having a 1.5 in (38mm) diameter washer at the head, and a length between 12 and 24 in (300-600 mm) with sufficient ground penetration to resist pullout (Figure 4). Longer pins may be required for looser soils. Heavier metal stakes may be required in rocky soils. Suggested placement of pins for the COS trench is along the bottom of the trench with pins on 12 in (300 mm) centers. Pins should also be installed on panel edge overlaps in the COS trench.

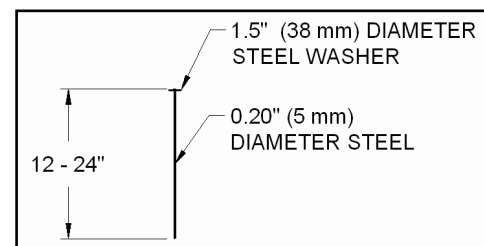


Figure 4: Securing Pin

4. Backfill and compact the COS trench in the location of the first Landlok 450 panel only (Figure 5).



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- For slope lengths greater than 45 ft (13.7 m), install simulated check slots. This method includes placing two rows of pins 12 in (300 mm) apart on 12 in (300 mm) centers at 45 ft (13.7 m) maximum intervals or across the midpoint of the slope for slope lengths less than 60 ft (18.2 m) (Figure 10).
- At the break in slope interface towards the TOS, it is suggested that pins be installed on 4 ft (1.2 m) centers (Figure 11).

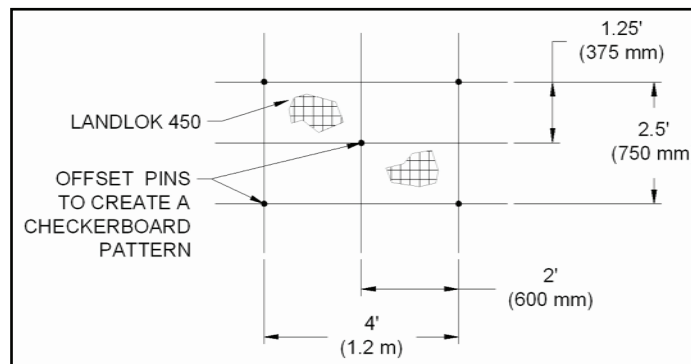


Figure 7: Example Pin Pattern

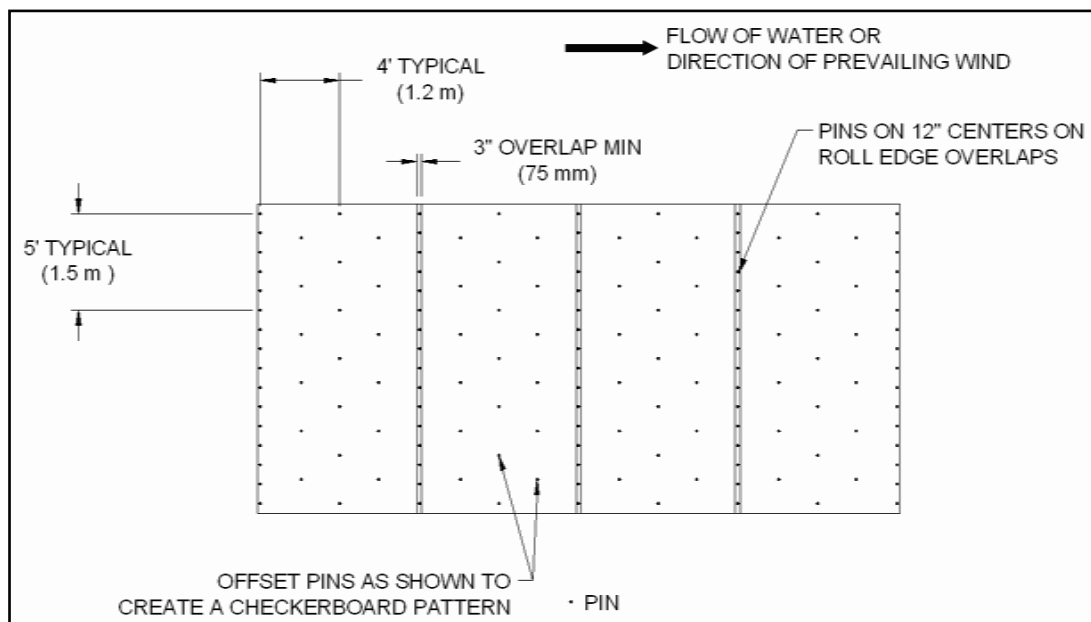


Figure 8: Example of Panel Overlap



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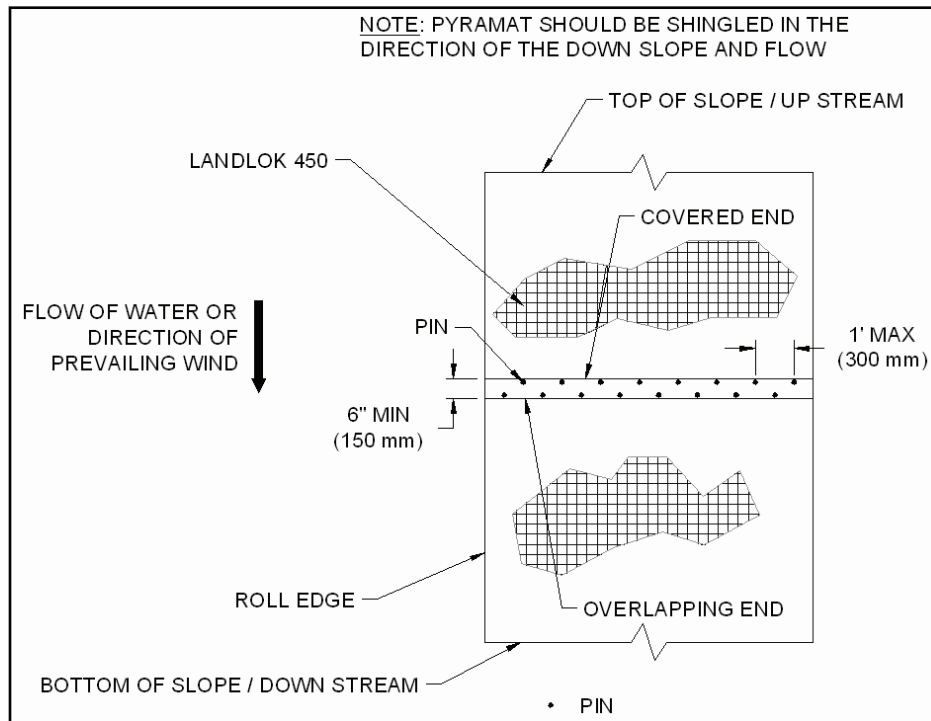


Figure 9: Roll End Overlap

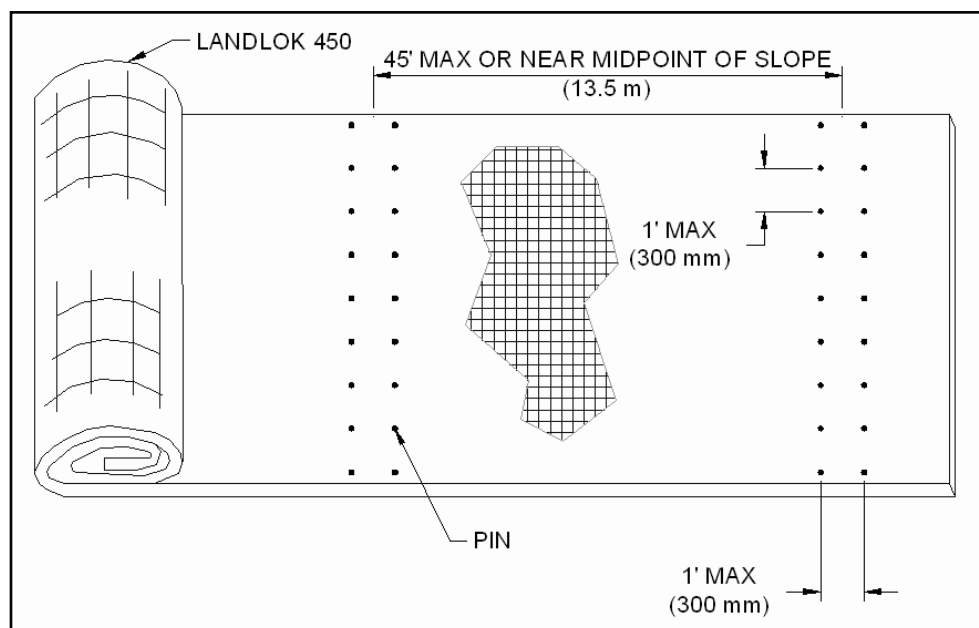


Figure 10: Simulated Check Slot



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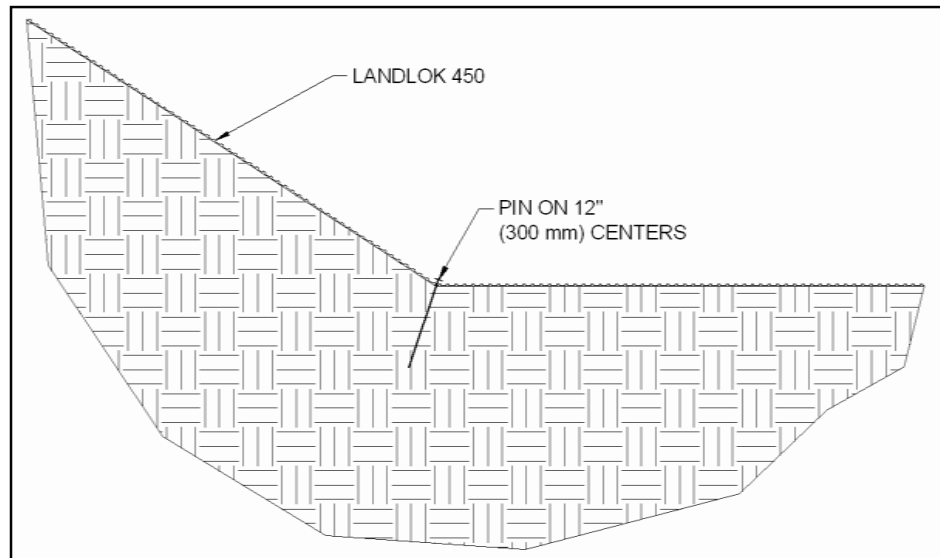


Figure 11: Break in Slope Interface

7. Secure Landlok 450 with pins in the TOS trench. Suggested placement of pins for the TOS trench is along the bottom of the trench with pins on 12 in (300 mm) centers (Figure 12).

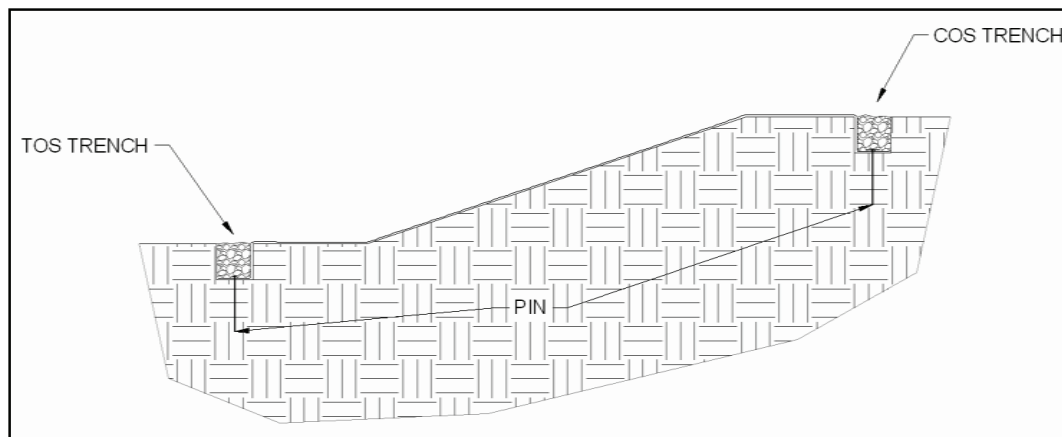


Figure 12: Crest of Slope (COS) Trench and Toe of Slope (TOS) Trench Complete

8. Backfill and compact the TOS trench. (Figure 12)
9. Continue to work down the length of the slope by repeating steps 1 through 8 overlapping each adjacent Landlok 450 panel by 3 inches (75 mm) (Figure 8). The last Landlok 450 panel should terminate on the Slope Armoring Edge (SAE) with pins on 12 in (300 mm) centers. At a minimum, Landlok 450 panels should be pinned entirely across the slope surface, pins should be installed in the trenches, and the trenches should be backfilled and compacted at the end of each day to minimize rework in the case of a major rain event. Specific project conditions may warrant further evaluation of installation order for ease.



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An example isometric view (Figure 13) of a slope armored with Landlok 450 can be seen below for overall reference. Consult Propex Engineering Services at (423) 553-2450 with any questions that you may have.

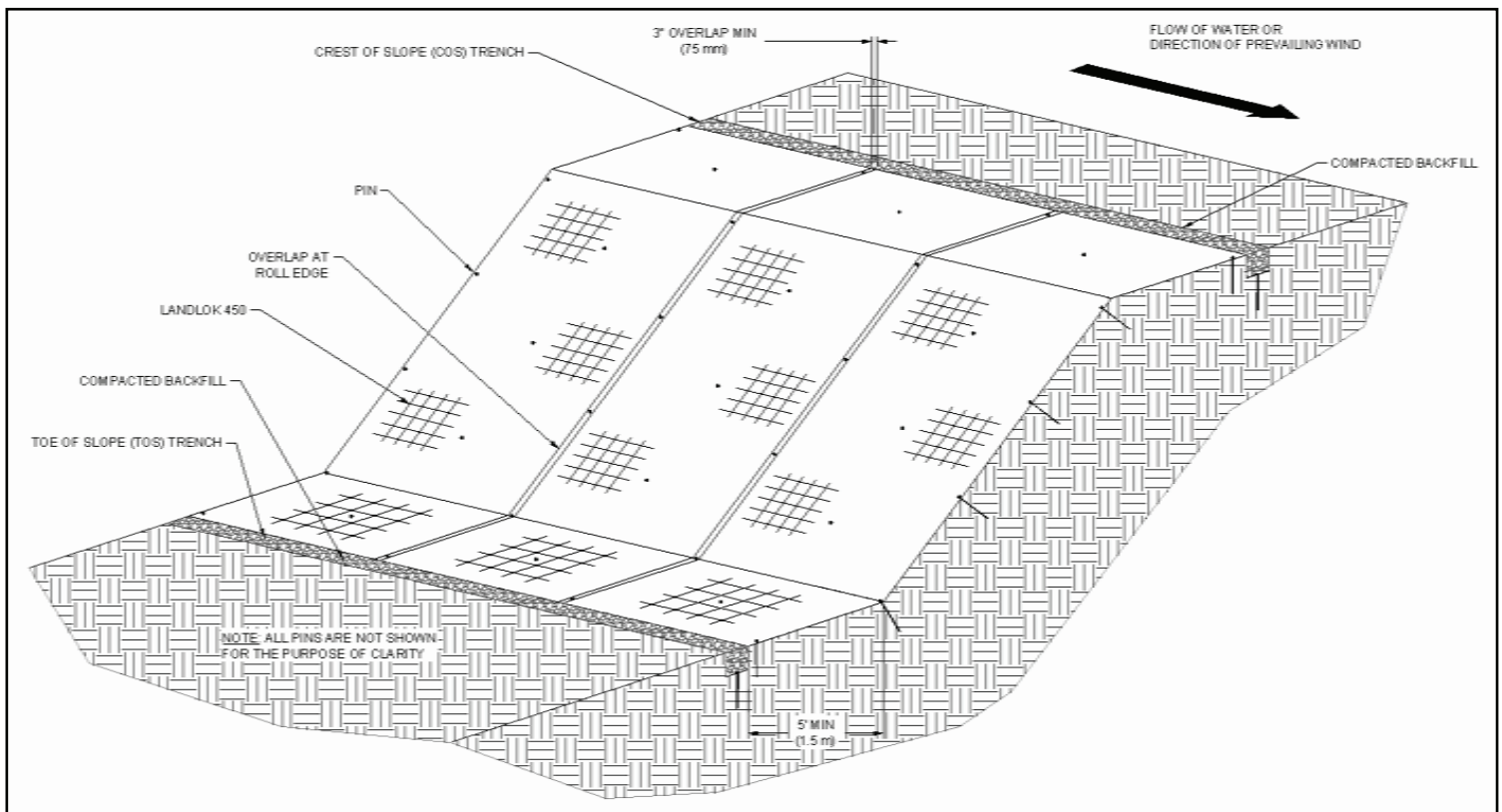


Figure 13: Completed Slope Isometric View

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ESTABLISH VEGETATION

Vegetation can be established with Landlok 450 by broadcast seeding, hydraulic seed application (hydroseeding), or sodding. Seed application rate, seed type, sod type, and irrigation rate should be selected based on local or site specific knowledge and time of year. For best results, consider having a site specific soil test performed to help determine what soil amendments, such as lime and fertilizer, need to be incorporated into the soil to promote healthy vegetation.

WITH SEED

1. Determine the seed location. Seed can be placed entirely on top of soil filled Landlok 450, or alternatively 50% below Landlok 450 prior to pinning, with the remainder placed on top of soil filled Landlok 450. If a rain event occurs prior to vegetation establishment, having 50% of the seed below Landlok 450 ensures that some seed remains in place. Seed placed entirely on top of soil filled Landlok 450 will allow for faster vegetation establishment.
2. If seeding below Landlok 450, ensure 50% of the seed is placed prior to the installation of Landlok 450.
3. Once Landlok 450 is in place, distribute soil on top by filling the pyramid like projections of Landlok 450. The proper amount can be visually measured by making the top ridges of the pyramid projections barely visible, or is approximately 1 inch thick when measured. Soil filling can be accomplished manually or by using a small piece of equipment. Do not place excessive soil above Landlok 450. See *Consider Project Specific Needs* for guidance on driving equipment across Landlok 450.
4. After seed has been placed, for added protection, install a Landlok Erosion Control Blanket (ECB) above the soil-filled Landlok 450.
5. Irrigate as necessary to establish and maintain vegetation until 75% of vegetation has established and has reached a height of 2 inches. Frequent, light irrigation will need to be applied to seeded areas if natural rain events have not occurred within two weeks of seeding. When watering seeded areas, use a fine spray to prevent erosion of seeds or soil. Do not over irrigate. Proper irrigation guidance is provided under the Maintenance portion of this document.

WITH SOD

1. Sod will be always placed on top of Landlok 450.
2. Sod staples should be used to secure the sod against Landlok 450. During the placement of the sod, ensure that Landlok 450 is 100% covered by tightly adjoining rolls or squares of sod along edges. Any voids in between sod pieces should be filled with clean loose soil.
3. Irrigate as necessary. Proper irrigation guidance is provided under the Maintenance portion of this document.
4. Monitor to identify areas where browned/dead sod emerges. These areas may need to be addressed to ensure proper sod establishment.



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CONSIDER PROJECT SPECIFIC NEEDS

1. For applications that require special transitions (i.e. connections to riprap, concrete, T-walls, etc.), refer to the project specific drawings or consult with Propex Engineering Services at (423) 553-2450.
2. A deeper terminal trench and/or hard armoring may be required when slopes have severe scour potential at the toe location.
3. For installing Landlok 450 panels around curved sections of a slope, trim panels at an angle so that no more than two layers of Landlok 450 overlap at any point in time. Additional pins may be needed to secure panel edges towards the toe of the slope depending upon the radius of the curved slope. Install pins as necessary to securely fasten Landlok 450 to the ground.
4. Allowable Vehicle Traffic:
 - A. If using equipment on Landlok 450, it should be of the rubber-tired type and should avoid sharp turns. Tracked equipment is not permitted to drive over the Landlok 450 without vegetation at any time.
 - B. Avoid any traffic over Landlok 450 if loose or wet soil conditions exist.
5. Disturbed areas should be reseeded. If ruts or depressions develop for any reason, rework soil until smooth and reseed such areas.
6. Do not mulch areas where Landlok 450 is to be placed.

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SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM MAINTENANCE OF LANDLOK 450

The purpose of this section is to provide some general guidelines for performing short-term and long-term maintenance of Landlok 450 with respect to maintaining vegetation reinforced with Landlok 450, and patching of Landlok 450 (in the event it needs to be removed or replaced). These procedures are to be considered minimum guidelines for proper maintenance, and further maintenance techniques may be appropriate considering local practices and procedures.

LANDLOK 450 PROTECTED SLOPES

For Landlok 450 to be most effective, it is important to ensure that it is properly maintained both during construction and after construction. Identifying trouble areas is easy with Landlok 450, and it can make identifying potential threats much simpler and manageable. Look for areas with sparse, dying, or no vegetation as these are obvious signs that Landlok 450 is losing intimate contact with the slope surface. If loss of ground surface occurs, Landlok 450 will need to be removed and reinstalled as described in *Patching and Repairs* Section after the eroded area is backfilled with compacted soil that is similar to material of the slope. After Landlok 450 is reinstalled, re-establish vegetation on the newly installed Landlok 450 and disturbed areas. Monitor the sites to determine if frequent watering may be required to establish vegetation.

To minimize exposure to unwanted maintenance and repair, Landlok 450 armored slopes should be free of unauthorized vehicular traffic. Routine maintenance and slope inspections should be performed with rubber tired vehicles. Tracked equipment such as skid steers, excavators, or dozers should only be allowed to traffic over Landlok 450 in times of emergency after vegetation establishment is complete. Failure to control unauthorized traffic can result in Landlok 450 being damaged resulting in erosion below Landlok 450 during storm events. In addition, routine mowing maintenance should be used to keep the protected area free of unwanted brush, saplings, and trees. Selective herbicides that target only the unwanted plants can be used as long as the vegetation established with Landlok 450 is not impaired. Failure to control the sapling and tree growth can result in the trees being uprooted during a flood.

MAINTAINING VEGETATION

Good vegetative cover will ensure maximum performance of Landlok 450. Vegetative cover care starts before a project is complete and is ongoing until all Landlok 450 is installed. Vegetative cover should be given every opportunity to grow and establish well. This will require that a contractor periodically fertilize, water, and mow the grasses as needed until a project is complete in the short-term, with the owner of the slope fulfilling the maintenance of the slope in a similar fashion for the long-term. For the entire lifecycle of Landlok 450, every effort must be made to prevent unauthorized encroachments, grazing, vehicle traffic, the misuse of chemicals, or burning during inappropriate seasons.

1. After the installation of vegetation is complete, immediately water and soak the entire area using a fine spray to prevent erosion and loss of seeds. A suggested amount of water is identified below. Prior to installation if using sod, the sod pads in storage should be kept moist at all times and not stored for more than 24 hours from site arrival to installation. Warmer weather will necessitate more frequent applications than listed below.
 - A. For each reach/segment of installed vegetation, watering shall be conducted immediately after each installation or the day's work.



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- B. First 30 days, completed segments shall be watered daily with a minimum of 0.75 and a maximum of 1.0 inches per square foot per day (20,364 gallons minimum, 27,152 gallons maximum per acre per day).
 - C. Second 30 days, the watering may be reduced to 0.50 inches per square foot per day (13,576 gallons maximum per acre per day) or as required based upon the condition of the sod.
 - D. Avoid excessive application of water, so that surface runoff does not occur. Runoff should be prohibited. However, additional watering may be required for repaired or damaged areas.
4. Initial fertilizing should be applied 14 days after vegetation is placed, using 25-lbs per acre ammonium nitrate or ammonium sulfate. Post-fertilization should be conducted 30 to 45 days after installation, using an application rate of 25-lbs per acre (ammonium nitrate or ammonium sulfate). Application example: in order to apply ammonium nitrate or ammonium sulfate at a rate of 25-lbs per acre, 75 lbs of 33-0-0 is required.
 5. Implement best practices for mowing over Landlok 450. While Landlok 450 is designed to withstand non-hydraulic stresses such as mowing, there are procedures to minimize exposure to unwanted damage.
 - A. Immediately after installation, signage and post shall be installed stating that "Vehicles and Pedestrians are Prohibited from Access" on the slopes and the newly installed vegetation. Signage shall be posted every 1,500 lineal feet.
 - B. Vegetated areas should be mowed to a height no less than 6 inches and no greater than 12 inches from natural ground after a period of 60 days of growth. The excessive grass clippings created from mowing shall be evenly spread on the slope section outside of the armored area. Periodic and final grass mowing should be performed until final inspection and acceptance of slope work. Monitor the vegetated areas throughout winter months and generate reports as needed, noting any issues that should be addressed.
 - C. To prevent damage to the newly established vegetation, the mowing tractor should be fitted with 3-rib agriculture tires. Note that tractors with 8-foot flail mowers provide best results. Tractors with 15-foot brush hogs should avoid sharp turns up the slope to prevent damage to vegetation.
 - D. Mowing should not take place for a minimum of 48 hours after a rainfall event of 2 inches or more to minimize the potential for rutting and/or damage to the slope surface. Maintenance mowing of the slope should be done on a consistent basis to prevent vegetation growing to more than 3 feet in height. This will minimize thatch thickness and potential damage to Landlok 450. If turn-around pads are present, operate mowing equipment utilizing the turn-around pads to the fullest extent. The mowing blade height over Landlok 450 should be a minimum of 8 inches. However, should vegetation grow to more than 3 feet in height, the mowing blade height for the condition should be a minimum of 12 inches.
 6. Some special circumstances may exist. When mowing the crown of a slope with a crown or crest equal to or exceeding 20%, it should be mowed with an articulating arm mower to minimize the potential for the mower blades to catch Landlok 450 at the slope surface. The articulating arm mower should be level on the surface with the articulating arm extending over the crown. **Pay close attention to areas where the slope changes.** The mower blades should be set at a minimum height of 8 inches. If Landlok 450 is damaged by the mowing blades at any time, mowing should stop immediately and further direction should be obtained to continue activity. Repair the damaged area as described in the *Patching and Repairs* section below.
 7. Landlok 450 protected slopes are not as susceptible to animal burrowing due the tenacity of the Landlok 450; however, inspections to detect the presence of burrowing animal activity are generally most effective immediately after the slope has been mowed. Animal burrows that are identified should be thoroughly excavated and inspected, backfilled with compacted soil that is similar to material of the slope, and vegetation re-established. This will avoid the possibility of water piping through unfilled portions of the burrows. Should Landlok 450 be damaged, it is to be repaired as described *Patching and Repairs* section below.



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PATCHING AND REPAIRS

Landlok 450 may require localized repair at times. For emergency repairs, an adequate supply of Landlok 450 should be maintained in inventory with the necessary tools to install. This will allow for a timely, initial repair of the system.

1. In order to identify areas in need of repair, the site should be patrolled immediately after mowing and after rain events of 2 inches or more. When patrolling look for areas of sparse vegetation, exposed edges of Landlok 450, and areas where direct contact between Landlok 450 and the slope surface is compromised. Landlok 450 should be rated as *Acceptable*, *Minimally Acceptable*, or *Unacceptable* during inspection.
 - A. *Acceptable (A)* - The rated area is in satisfactory, acceptable condition, and will function as designed and intended during the rain event. Landlok 450 has no exposed edges, is installed tightly by maintaining direct contact to the slope surface with no rilling beneath, and has over 90% vegetation cover. There is no noticeable damage present.
 - B. *Minimally Acceptable (M)* - The rated area has a minor deficiency that needs to be corrected. The minor deficiency will not seriously impair the functioning of the area during the next rain event; however, the overall reliability of the project will be lowered because of the minor deficiency. Landlok 450 has 75% vegetation cover with un-vegetated patches as large as one square yard. Edges of Landlok 450 are exposed with noticeable damage. Minimal erosion has occurred underneath Landlok 450.
 - C. *Unacceptable (U)* - The rated area is unsatisfactory. The deficiency is so serious that the area will not adequately function in the next rain event. Landlok 450 has been physically torn, ripped, or lifted from the slope surface. Less than 75% vegetation cover is present with un-vegetated patches being greater than 1 square yard, and there is evidence that erosion is occurring beneath Landlok 450.
2. Repair any raised or exposed edges of Landlok 450 by driving existing and additional pins along the edges as necessary to securely fasten to the ground. Inspect areas where the vegetation is not growing on top of Landlok 450. Many times this is an indicator that Landlok 450 has lost contact with the ground beneath. Check for voids beneath Landlok 450 and fill any holes, gullies, etc. with compacted fill material if possible. Replace Landlok 450 as described below.
3. To repair Landlok 450, cut out and remove damaged areas in a square configuration a minimum size of 2 ft by 2 ft. Remove all vegetation and debris atop of Landlok 450. Loosen the top 1 to 2 in of soil in the patch area then seed. The subgrade of area to be patched shall be prepared to be smooth and uniform and transition smoothly into the in-situ area. Cut a square Landlok 450 patch a minimum of 12 in greater than the damaged area for all four sides of the patch. Overlap the patch area in all directions a minimum of 12 in. The patch overlaps shall be tucked under the existing damaged Landlok 450 material (Figure 14 and Figure 15)

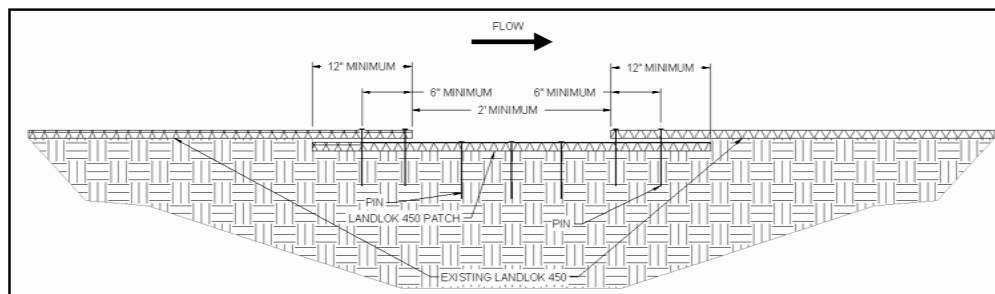


Figure 14: Landlok 450 Patch Cross Section



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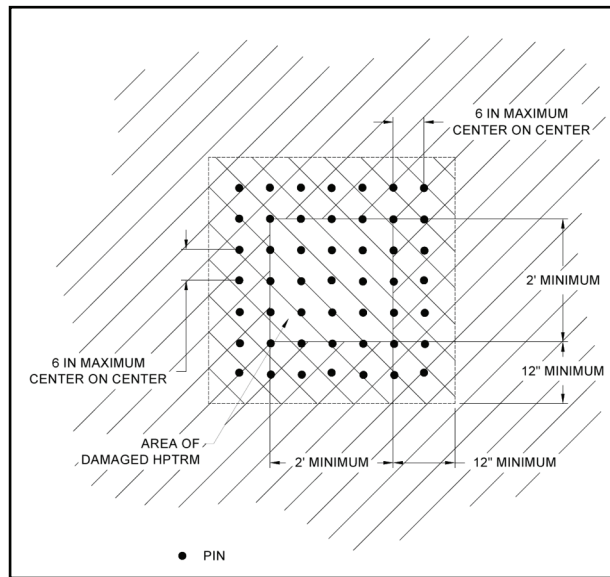


Figure 15: Landlok 450 Patch Plan View

4. Install pins on 6 in (150 mm) (max) centers. For larger areas of damage, pins should be installed to match existing pin pattern. Once Landlok 450 is in place, vegetate per project specifications.

SUMMARY

Maintenance should consist of watering and weeding, repair of all erosion, and any re-seeding as necessary to establish a uniform stand of vegetation during construction and beyond. A minimum of 70% of the armored area should be covered with no bare or dead spots greater than 10 ft² (1 m²). Establishing vegetation should not be mowed prior to 70% vegetative density and a minimum grass growth of 4 in (100 mm). Throughout the duration of the project, the contractor should be responsible for mowing to facilitate growth and should not let the vegetation in the armored areas exceed 18 in (450 mm). In addition, the Contractor should water all grassed areas as often as necessary to establish satisfactory growth and to maintain its growth throughout the duration of the project. After the project is complete, it is the responsibility of the Owner to maintain and upkeep all Landlok 450 installed areas for long term performance and best results as described herein for superior slope armoring.