

Q: What is the definition of grading?

A: The Ventura County Building Code Appendix J defines “Grading” as an excavation or fill or combination thereof. Another key definition is “Earth Material” which is any rock, natural soil or unconsolidated material above bedrock or mixture thereof.

Q: Where can I find grading requirements in the County unincorporated areas?

A: The Ventura County Building Code, 2016 Edition is available at this link:

<http://docs.vcrma.org/images/pdf/bs/2016-VCBC.pdf>

Appendix J Grading begins on page 105 and ends on page 131.

Q: Is there a sketch that simplifies what grading I can do that does not require a grading permit?

A: Yes, Figure J103.2 (see below) of the Ventura County Building Code 2016 Edition shows the grading work as either an excavation or fill that can be done on one parcel of land. The fills shown are not intended to support a structure like a residence or barn. Fills are not to be placed where they will obstruct a drainage course. CY stands for Cubic Yards and a single dump truck can hold approximately 7 to 10 Cubic Yards of soil. Typically you can do one excavation under 50 CY and one fill under 50 CY per year. The fill with 1000 CY is one time only per parcel and limited to one acre. The fill must be immediately spread to less than a foot in height. All cuts and fills require protection from erosion.

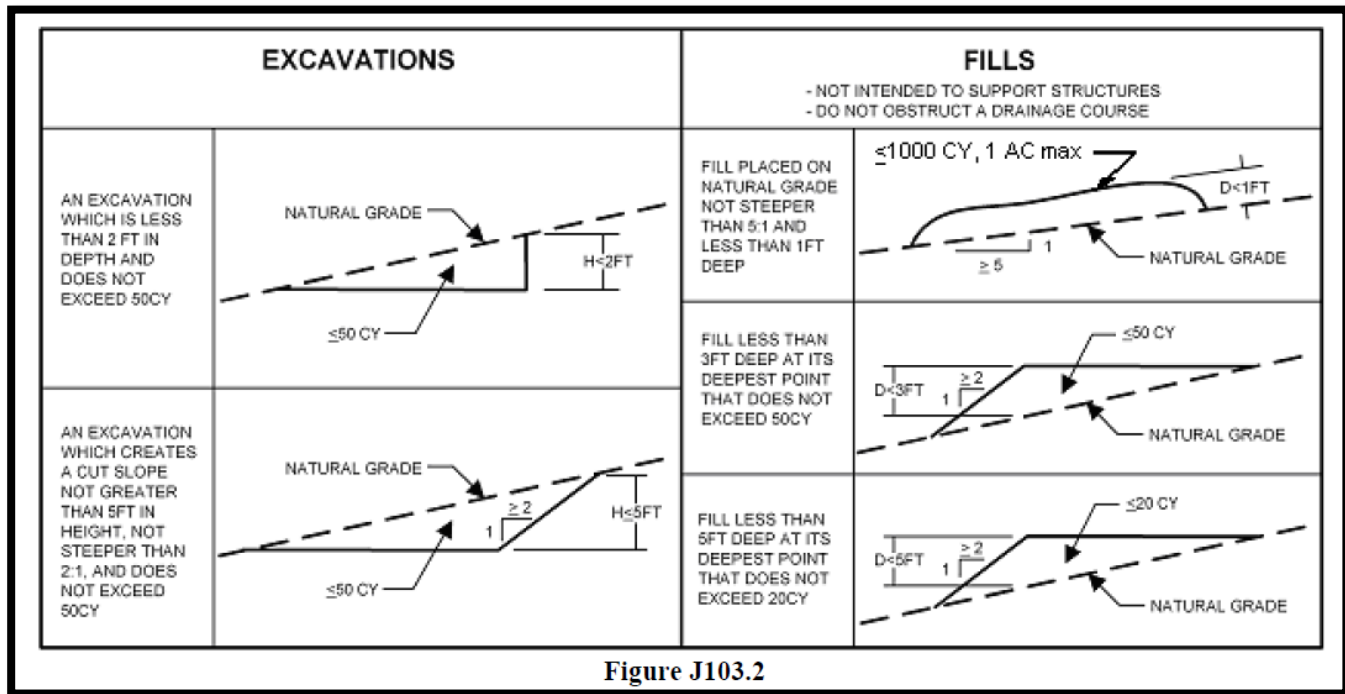


Figure J103.2

Q: What about moving burned debris, ash, manure, or green waste – is that grading?

A: No. We would recommend talking with the Ventura County Resource Management Agency and asking material storage or waste removal questions to Environmental Health 805-654-2813 or the Planning Division 805-654-2488.