



Maintaining your Stormwater System

The Town of Ocean City, Maryland

Engineering Department
(410)-289-8825

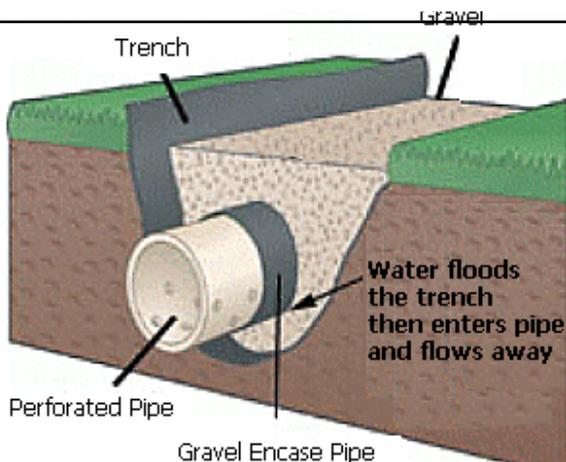
French Drain/ Infiltration Trench

Infiltration trenches can be found above or below the surface. Their purpose is to slow down the volume runoff off site while treating storm water from pollutants. Below ground trenches are more commonly found on properties throughout the city. Runoff will enter the system through a storm drain where it then passes through an inlet receiving treatment before settling in the spaces between coarse stones. Above ground trenches work similarly, however runoff is directed by sheet flow as it passes through a buffer before settling into the trench.

It is important to check your system throughout the year as it can become easily clogged from solids. This is done through a visible inspection of the observation well and storm drain. In the event of a clog the entire system will need to be removed and reinstalled to restore it back to its previous functioning state.

Maintenance

Removal of debris from the pretreatment inlet/buffer should be done on a regular basis to prevent them from continuing into the trench. If there is standing water for an extended period of time (72 hours or longer) your system will need to be repaired. In this event it is best to remove aggregate stone from a deeper level to prevent from additional work being done in the near future.



Above depicts the concept of an infiltration trench. An exfiltration trench is similar with the exception of the perforated pipe (not pictured).

Source: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Exfiltration Trench

Similar to the concept of the French drain, an exfiltration trench filters runoff through a catch basin slowing down the volume of discharge. From here it passes through a screened inlet before entering into a perforated pipe. This will slow the flow of runoff allowing it to pass through a gravel envelope, eventually making its way back into the soil.

Maintenance

The same practices for infiltration trenches can be applied for maintenance of exfiltration trenches. However it is important to be proactive with the maintenance of the area surrounding the catch basin. It is difficult to monitor the conditions past the catch basin/inlet. Debris and sediments can create a clog inside the perforated pipe and will result in the complete removal and installation of the entire system. *This can become costly if repairs are needed past the inlet*



A rain garden located in Ocean City's downtown. Note how the curb cuts allow storm water enter into the garden.

Rain Garden

Rain Garden's are a way to help treat your stormwater on site while also providing an aesthetic component to the landscaping on your property. Runoff water will drain from your roof or lot and funnel towards the garden. Here the water will be treated from any pollutants while it slowly infiltrates into the soil. The gardens are composed of a mix between grasses and perennials of native plant species.

Maintenance

Similar to the maintenance protocol of infiltration/exfiltration trenches, rain gardens must be kept clear from debris. Frequent clearing of any solid wastes (i.e. trash) is important to help keep the plants in your rain garden healthy. The plants should be pruned seasonally and weeds kept clear from the garden.

Call Engineering Department for website information on maintenance instructions

