

Infiltration Trench Maintenance

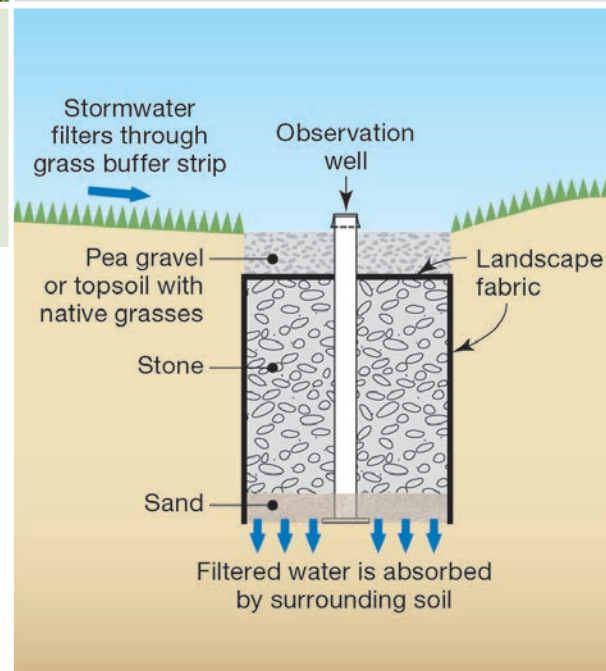


Photo courtesy of Montgomery County, Maryland, Department of Environmental Protection

What is an infiltration trench?

An infiltration trench is an excavated channel filled with gravel that is designed to filter stormwater. Infiltration trenches are commonly used in residential neighborhoods and around commercial businesses.

An infiltration trench captures rainwater and directs it through layers of gravel and underlying soil, which allows the water to infiltrate into the surrounding soil and prevents flooding.



Maintenance you can perform:

As needed:

- ✓ Inspect the infiltration trench after major storms.
- ✓ Manually remove sediment and debris.

Avoid:

- ✗ Don't let children or pets play with the filter.
- ✗ Don't place grass clippings in the infiltration trench.

Seasonally:

- ✓ Mow surrounding grass and remove trash.
- ✓ Manually remove vegetation and weeds.



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Why is it important to maintain your infiltration trench?

An unmaintained infiltration trench may:

- Not remove pollutants as intended and allow polluted water to enter streams and rivers
- Allow unwanted vegetation to grow over it, reducing its effectiveness
- Cost more money to fix if problems are not addressed

By maintaining your infiltration trench, you are doing your part to protect your local streams and the Chesapeake Bay.



Infiltration trench

Recommended maintenance checklist

Leaf and Debris Removal

April through November

Monitoring

As needed

Problem solving . . .

Standing water

POSSIBLE CAUSE: Filter is clogged.

SOLUTION: Manually remove debris, vegetation, and sediment. Replace filter if necessary.

Erosion

POSSIBLE CAUSE: Stormwater is flowing too fast.

SOLUTION: Regrade or add stone to slow the flow.

Holes or damage

POSSIBLE CAUSE: Animal activity.

SOLUTION: Fill in materials as needed.

If you have questions or need more information, please visit cbf.org.