Flow splitters are often used to send a certain quantity of untreated water, known as the “first flush,” to a hydrodynamic separator. The oil and grit separator captures and treats stormwater by separating oil, grease, trash, and sediment from the captured stormwater through three chambers. The clean water is then returned to the local stream or storm drain system.

Proprietary systems follow similar processes to remove oil, grease, trash, and sediment from stormwater. The designs of these systems vary.

**Underground Hydrodynamic Separators Maintenance**

**What are underground hydrodynamic separators?**

Hydrodynamic separators remove oil, grease, trash, and sediment from stormwater runoff. These underground structures include oil and grit separators and proprietary hydrodynamic separators, such as Baysaver®, Aqua-Swirl®, and Stormceptor®. Please visit the manufacturers’ websites for more information about these devices. Underground hydrodynamic separators are commonly located under parking lots at commercial sites or multi-family residential sites (condominiums, apartments, etc.).

**Maintenance you can perform:**

**As needed:**

✔ Pick up trash, debris, and leaves around your property and in front of the inlets to your hydrodynamic separator.

✔ Sweep paved areas on your property to remove pollutants, such as sediment and sand.

✔ Store chemicals, used oil, and pesticides in covered areas so these potential pollutants are not exposed to stormwater.

**Avoid:**

✗ Don’t stockpile sand, cinders, or salt on your property unless they are in covered containment areas.
Why is it important to maintain your underground hydrodynamic separators?

An unmaintained underground hydrodynamic separator may:

• Not remove pollutants as intended and allow polluted water to enter streams and rivers
• Become filled with sediment and debris so water cannot be treated or stored
• Cost more to fix if problems are not addressed

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

Recommended maintenance checklist

☐ Leaf and Debris Removal
   April through November

☐ Monitoring
   April through November

Problem solving . . .

Trash, debris, or sediment accumulation

POSSIBLE CAUSE: Separator is clogged, maintenance not performed.

SOLUTION: Pump out, clean, and properly dispose of debris; increase frequency of maintenance.

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