

# Underground Flow Splitters

## STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE

### What is a flow splitter?

A flow splitter is a stormwater structure that divides stormwater runoff between multiple stormwater facilities or between a stormwater facility and an offsite storm drain system. Flow splitters are located in residential neighborhoods and around commercial businesses.

### How does it work?

The flow splitter sends a portion of the stormwater to facilities such as wet or dry ponds, constructed wetlands, infiltration trenches, or hydrodynamic separators for treatment. The portion of untreated water that is sent to a facility for treatment is referred to as the "first flush." Excess stormwater from large storms passes through the flow splitter and continues to the storm drain system.

### Why are flow splitters important?

- Help stormwater management facilities to function more efficiently
- Help facilities to remove pollutants
- Improve the health of streams and rivers
- Help to make our waters fishable and swimmable
- Improve the quality of the Chesapeake Bay

### Why is it important to keep your flow splitter maintained?

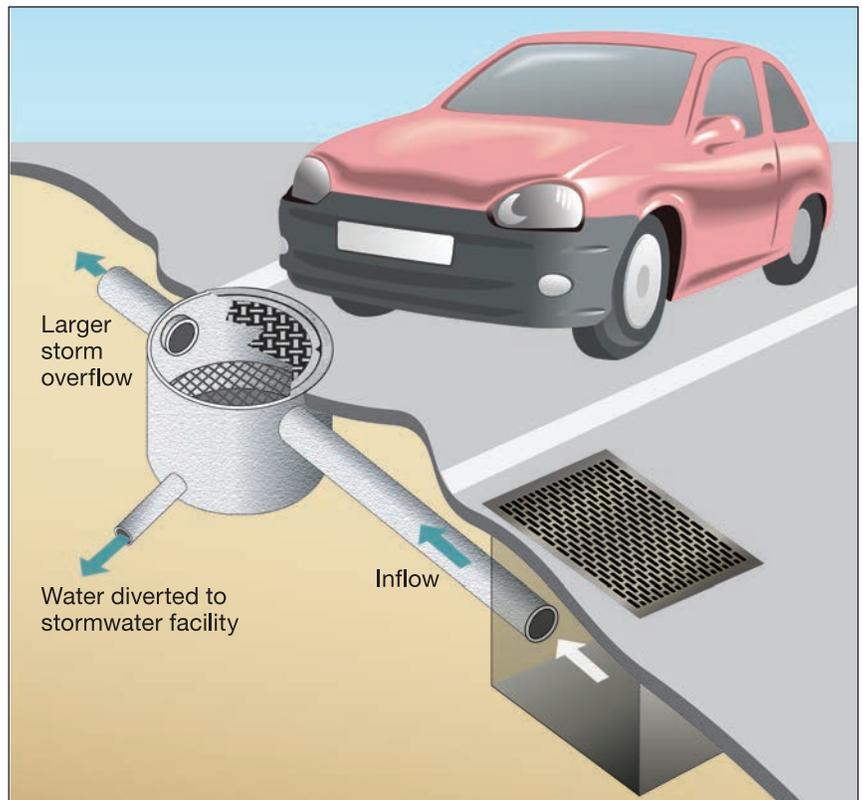
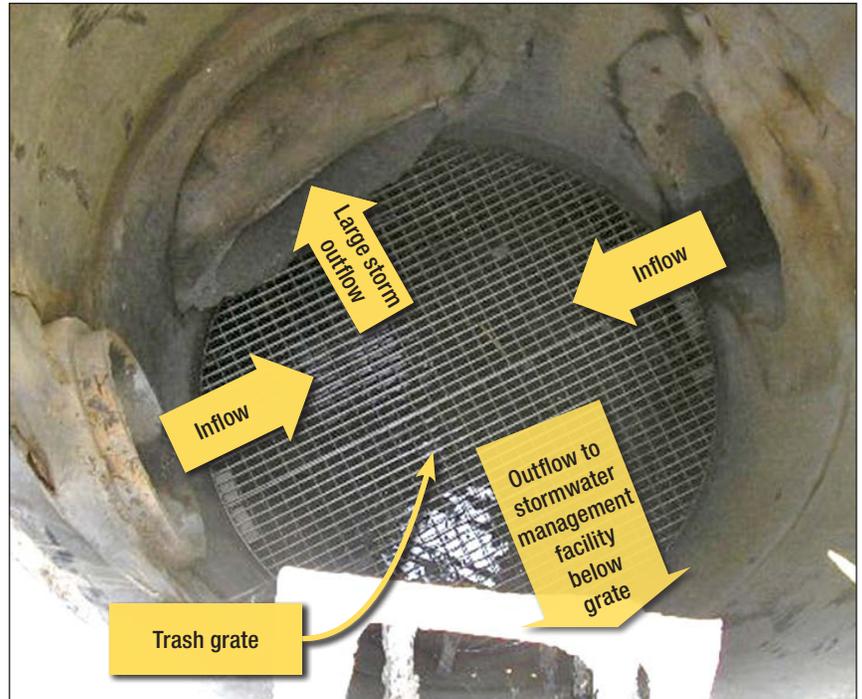
An unmaintained flow splitter may:

- Become clogged with sediment and debris that causes the untreated water to bypass the flow splitter and treatment facility all together
- Cost more to fix if problems are left unchecked

Flow splitters can be located upstream of aboveground or underground stormwater facilities.



Flow splitter manhole cover



# Maintenance 101

## Performing Maintenance

Performing **preventive maintenance** regularly will prevent long-term damage and help avoid potential violations. These actions will keep your facility looking good and working correctly, which will save you money in the long term. The preventive maintenance actions shown below can be thought of as similar to preventive car maintenance (like changing the oil in your car every 3 months).

### Preventive Maintenance

(Things you can do)

#### Frequently

- Pick up trash, debris, or leaves near the inlet to your flow splitter

#### As needed

- Know the pollutant sources on your property and try to eliminate the pollutants at the source
- 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 rainfall
- Do not stockpile sand or salt on your property
- Do not let vehicle or equipment wash water enter your flow splitter
- Inspect (but do not enter) the flow splitter after every major storm event

**Structural maintenance** is work done on the components of the filter that allow it to control rainwater and remove pollutants. Structural maintenance problems in the table below are things you should be looking out for. When they happen, call DEP for help (like calling your mechanic when the engine light comes on).

### Structural Maintenance

(Only by a contractor)

Problem:	Possible Fix:
Missing or damaged manhole cover	Replace manhole cover
Trash, debris, oil and grease, or sediment accumulation within the flow splitter	Remove and properly dispose of the trash, debris, or sediment
Missing steps/ladders	Repair or replace steps/ladders
Clogged pipes and trash racks	Remove and properly dispose of debris causing clogging
Corrosion of metal pipes	Repair or replace corroded metal parts
Damaged structural components (i.e., pipes, concrete, trash racks, pipe joints, proprietary unit, etc.)	Repair and/or replacement for these components to be determined by DEP

## Who is responsible for the maintenance?

As the property owner, **YOU** are responsible for all maintenance unless your flow splitter has been transferred to the DEP Stormwater Facility Maintenance Program. If you would like more information about transferring your flow splitter into this program, please visit <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/stormwatertransfer>.

## How will I know what maintenance is required?

DEP recommends owners use a certified contractor to pump-out, power wash, and clean their stormwater facility annually to ensure the facility is properly functioning and passes inspection. If DEP inspects the facility and finds maintenance issues, you will receive a notice of violation with a work order showing the list of required maintenance and repairs. You will have 45 days from the date of the notice to hire a certified contractor to complete the maintenance and repairs. A civil citation may be issued if you have not complied with the maintenance and repair requirements.



**A DEP-approved contractor must perform all structural maintenance. Please visit <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/stormwater> for a list of approved contractors.**

#### What if I need help or have questions?

DEP can answer your questions and provide additional guidance about maintaining your flow splitter. Please e-mail us at [Askdep@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Askdep@montgomerycountymd.gov), call the Montgomery County Customer Service Center at 3-1-1, or visit our website: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/stormwater>.

