

How to maintain your INFILTRATION AREA

Montgomery County, Maryland

Department of Environmental Protection

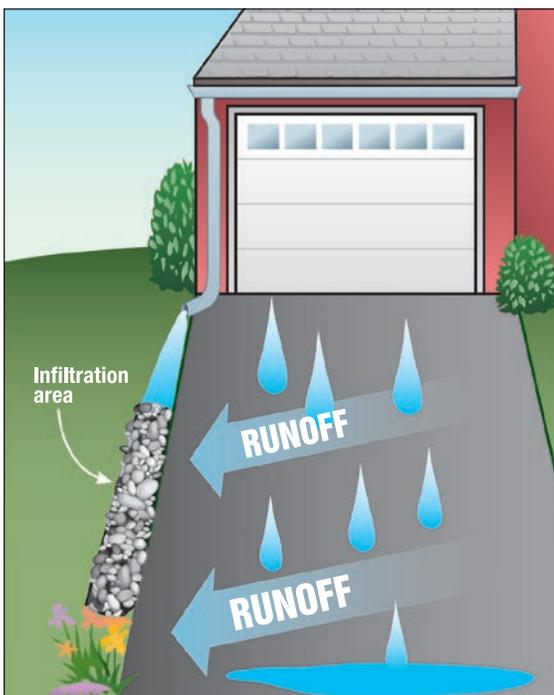
Stormwater Facility Maintenance Program

What is an infiltration area?

An infiltration area is a small trench filled with stone that collects rainwater from paved surfaces such as driveways and allows it to absorb into the surrounding soil. An infiltration area receives rainwater from surface runoff, not underground pipes like a buried dry well. Infiltration areas are common on residential lots, where they are typically located next to driveways and at least 20 feet from a building. Their location can be identified by the stone at the surface.

Infiltration areas need simple maintenance to keep stormwater flowing into them:

Remove Sediment, Leaves and Plant Debris from Paved Area and Gravel



Driveway with adjacent infiltration area

Actions you can take

Do...

Monthly

- ✓ Remove sediment and debris that has accumulated on the gravel infiltration area or the flow path to the infiltration area. Even small accumulations of sediment can cause rain water to flow away from the infiltration area.
- ✓ Inspect your infiltration area after storms to make sure that rain water properly drains to and through the infiltration area.

Seasonally

- ✓ Remove leaves and tree debris from paved surfaces and the gravel infiltration area surface from April through November.

As needed

- ✓ Inform contractors working on your property of the infiltration area's location to prevent accidentally damaging it.
- ✓ To prevent damage, be aware of infiltration area locations when doing snow removal.

Don't...

- ✗ Do not remove an infiltration area or expand your driveway over top of the infiltration area.
- ✗ Don't place decks, sheds, or other structures above an infiltration area.
- ✗ Don't blow grass clippings into the gravel surface of the infiltration area.
- ✗ Don't park cars on top of infiltration areas.

Why is it important to maintain your infiltration area?

An unmaintained infiltration area may:

- Cause flooding on other areas of your property if the stormwater is not able to flow into the infiltration area.
- Require a complete replacement of the facility, which can be very expensive.

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

Who is responsible for this maintenance?

As the property owner, YOU are responsible for all maintenance of your infiltration area.

To prevent flooding on your property or your neighbor's property, keep the drainage path to your infiltration area clear of any debris.



Can I remove the infiltration area?

No, you cannot remove any facilities that were part of your building installation. These are permitted structures and DEP maintains a database of these facility locations. DEP may perform a maintenance inspection of your practice if it is a permitted structure. Contact DEP to find out if you have a permitted structure or if you would like to discuss options for modifying your facility.

What if I need help or have additional questions?

DEP can answer your questions and provide additional guidance about maintaining your infiltration area. Please e-mail us at Askdep@montgomerycountymd.gov, call the Montgomery County Customer Service Center at 3-1-1, or visit <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/stormwater>.

Troubleshooting

Symptom	Possible Cause	Solution
Standing water around the infiltration area.	If standing water occurs for more than 48 hours, the infiltration area may be clogged.	The gravel may need to be cleaned or replaced. Contact DEP for further guidance.
Rainwater does not appear to be flowing to the infiltration area.	Leaves, sediment, or other plant debris may be blocking the flowpath.	Remove leaves, sediment, and other plant debris from paved surfaces and along the flowpath to the infiltration area.

Recommended timeframes for typical maintenance

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Remove leaves and debris*				✿	✿	✿	✿	✿	✿	✿	✿	

*Debris includes acorns, seeds, branches, grass clippings, sand/sediment, etc.



Residential infiltration area