



Underground Flow Splitters

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?

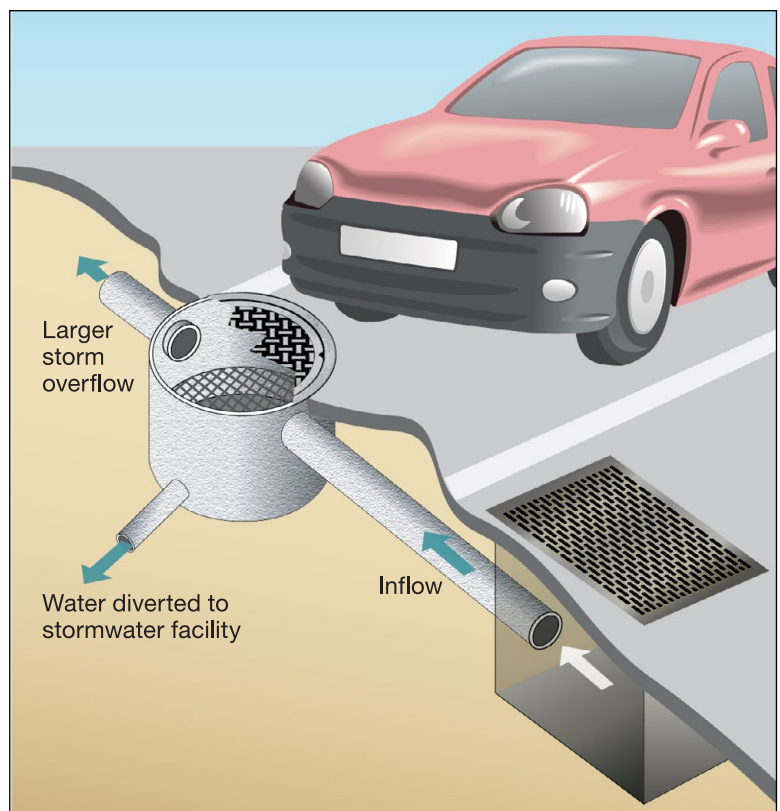
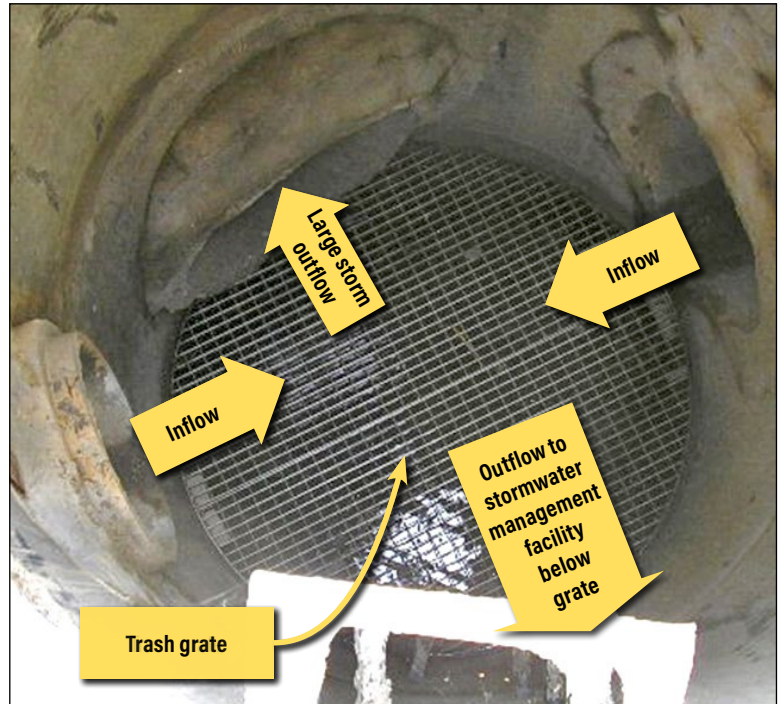
An unmaintained flow splitter may:

- 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 above-ground or underground stormwater facilities.



Flow splitter manhole cover



Maintenance 101

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. Think of the preventive maintenance actions below as similar to preventive car maintenance (like changing the oil in your car every 3 months).

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).

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

(Should only be performed 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 montgomerycountymd.gov/stormwater.

Trash and debris collected in a flow splitter



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 structural maintenance. Please visit montgomerycountymd.gov/stormwater for a list of approved contractors.

NEED HELP OR HAVE QUESTIONS?

DEP can answer your questions and provide additional guidance about maintaining your flow splitter.

Email us at AskDEP@montgomerycountymd.gov, call the Montgomery County Customer Service Center at **3-1-1**, or visit our website: montgomerycountymd.gov/stormwater.