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**
(Should only be performed by a contractor)

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

**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.

**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.

**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.

A DEP-approved contractor must perform structural maintenance. Please visit montgomerycountymd.gov/stormwater for a list of approved contractors.