



MAINTAINING AN INFILTRATION TRENCH

Taking Care of an Infiltration Trench

Infiltration trenches and associated pretreatment areas need simple routine maintenance to continue to work properly to control and treat stormwater runoff.

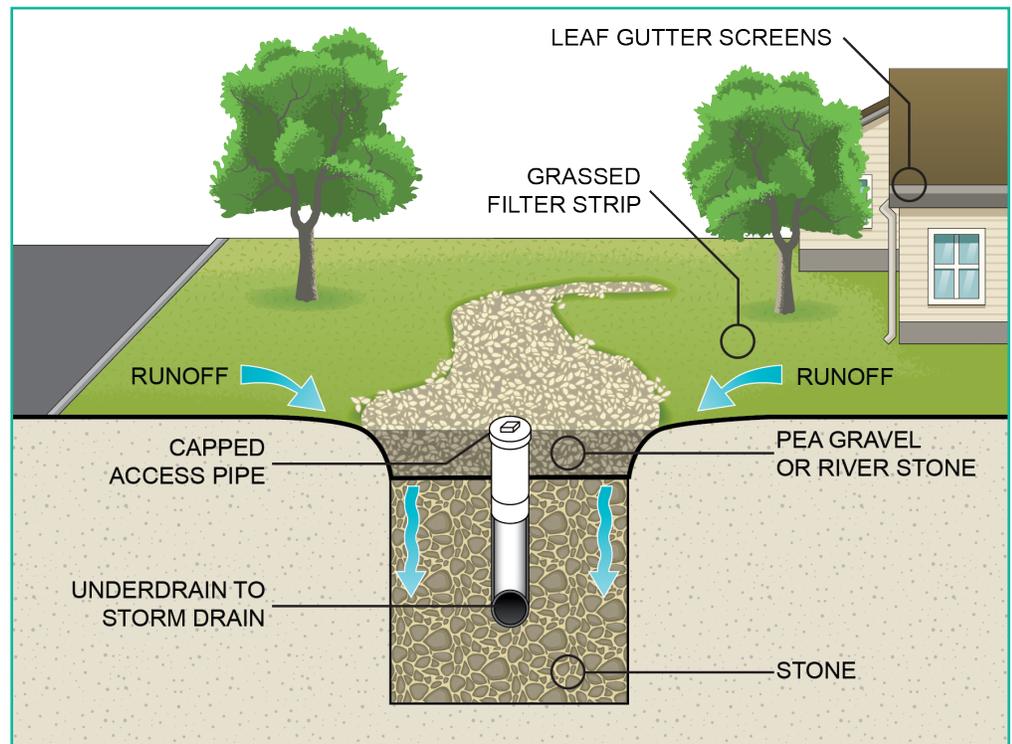
To Maintain Your Infiltration Trench

- ✓ Mow grass areas along the infiltration trench and remove grass clippings regularly. Remove any vegetation from the stone trench.
- ✓ Sweep pavement near the infiltration trench as needed to avoid sediment from being carried along with stormwater runoff flowing to the trench.
- ✓ Remove litter, debris, leaves, and sediment from pretreatment areas and from the infiltration trench once a month and as needed after a heavy storm to prevent clogging.
- ✓ Replace or replenish gravel annually or as needed.
- ✓ Check for erosion and bare spots regularly, especially in grass areas around the infiltration trench. Reseed if necessary.

Stormwater runoff is rainfall that moves over paved or impervious surfaces, picking up pollutants like litter, oil, and animal waste along the way to the storm drain system. Stormwater management facilities help to remove pollutants from stormwater runoff before that water reaches the rivers and bays of Virginia Beach. This fact sheet provides information on a specific type of stormwater management facility and how to maintain it.

What is an Infiltration Trench?

An infiltration trench is a small trench filled completely with stone that collects runoff from paved or impervious surfaces such as driveways or roofs and allows it to absorb into the underlying soil.

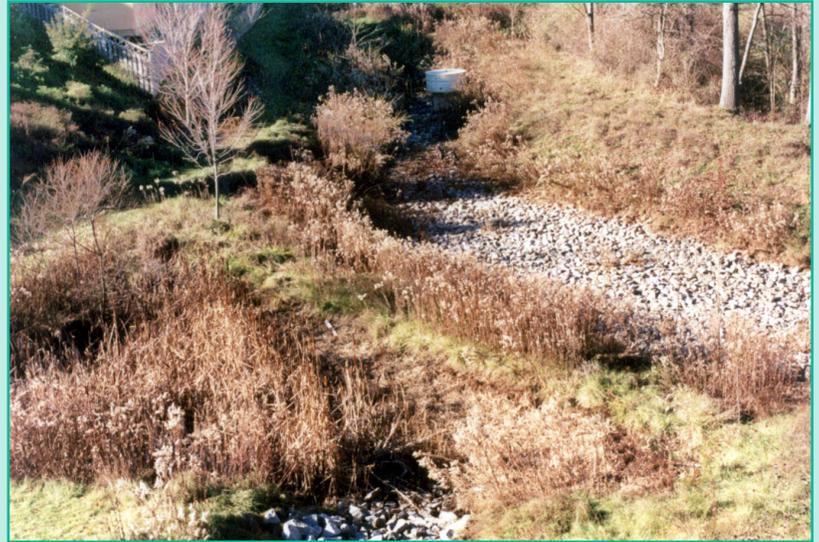


Cross-Section of an Infiltration Trench

How Does an Infiltration Trench Work?

Infiltration trenches are designed to allow stormwater runoff to slowly soak into the underlying soil, rather than flow directly into the storm drain system.

An infiltration trench relies on pretreatment to remove coarse sediment and debris from runoff before it reaches the trench. Pretreatment may be a leaf screen on a home's gutters, a grassy area between a sidewalk or driveway and the infiltration trench, or a gravel area that slows the flow of water before it reaches the infiltration trench. After pretreatment, the stormwater flows to a stone trench, where it soaks into the underlying soils. Pollutants are removed as the water filters through the soil. Perforated underdrain pipes may be used to increase the temporary underground stormwater storage in the trench where the underlying soil is less permeable. Systems with an underdrain will have a capped pipe to access the drain.



Troubleshooting

Problem	Likely cause	How to fix
Standing water in and around the infiltration trench more than 72 hours after the storm	The trench may be clogged.	Remove leaves, grass clippings, sediment, or other visible debris. Clean or replace gravel. Check pretreatment areas for erosion and reseed if needed. If there is an underdrain, open the capped access pipe and flush the pipe by running water through it from a hose.
Runoff does not flow to the infiltration trench	Leaves, sediment, or other plant debris may be blocking the flow of runoff through the pretreatment area.	Remove leaves, sediment, and other debris from and the pretreatment area. Clean leaf screens on roof gutters. Prune overhead branches that may drop leaves, fruit, or other debris onto the pretreatment area.

Virginia Beach Stormwater Management Program

www.vbgov.com/stormwater-program

☎ 757-385-4131

✉ VBstormwater@vbgov.com

Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

www.askhrgreen.org

☎ 757-420-8300

✉ hrgreen@hrpdca.gov

Virginia Beach Master Gardeners

www.vbmg.org

☎ 757-385-8156

✉ vbmghelp@vbgov.com

Virginia Stormwater BMP Clearinghouse

www.swbmp.vwrrc.vt.edu

✉ BMPClearinghouse@deq.virginia.gov