

INLET PROTECTION

Construction, landscape renovations, utility work, and other similar activities have the ability to generate non-stormwater discharges or produce debris, such as sediment, that can be picked up by stormwater runoff. At times, these activities are conducted in areas where the discharges end up in the street or gutter and enter nearby inlets to the storm sewer system (*see photo on right*). Ultimately, these discharges end up in our local streams, or can clog the system.

This fact sheet describes temporary controls that should be considered to protect storm sewer system inlets to minimize or eliminate non-stormwater discharges and polluted stormwater runoff. These techniques involve installing protective devices at the inlet or implementing temporary runoff capture devices near the activity.

Pollution Prevention Techniques

- 💧 Inlet protection devices should be constructed so that cleaning and disposal of trapped sediment or captured non-stormwater runoff is as easy as possible.
- 💧 When initiating an activity that may generate non-stormwater runoff or increase the potential for polluting stormwater, observe flow patterns from your site to ascertain if flows can enter the street or gutter and ultimately reach an inlet to the storm sewer.
- 💧 When an activity is underway, inspect the installed control devices periodically to ensure they are working as intended.
- 💧 Captured non-stormwater runoff can be removed from a control device by a wet/dry vacuum or similar method.



Keep in Mind

- 💧 Most non-stormwater discharges and debris, such as sediment, that can pollute stormwater, are not allowed in the storm sewer system (including in gutters).
- 💧 The basic purpose of inlet protection is to install a barrier around an inlet or install check dams along the gutter that filters sediment-laden stormwater runoff that may have generated from a construction site or other activity that disturbs soils.
- 💧 Inlet protection also entails capture devices primarily for activities that generate non-stormwater runoff, such as saw-cutting or utility boring activities, by capturing the non stormwater runoff for removal prior to getting to an inlet (*see photo on left*).

Inlet Protection Devices

Inlet protection devices include sediment control inlets, straw bales, gravel bags, fabric fencing, and other structural devices intended to trap and filter sediment-laden non-stormwater runoff and polluted stormwater discharges.

Inlet protection devices should be considered for long-term activities such as construction projects, landscape/home renovations, or other projects that will result in exposed soils (including stockpiles). However, inlet protection devices are also appropriate for short-term activities that may include sediment- or other pollutant-laden non-stormwater runoff (i.e. utility boring).

Gravel bag check dams should be considered in addition to direct inlet protection devices for larger projects can be installed in between the activity area and inlets in the gutter.

Sediment built up at an inlet protection device should be removed on a frequent basis to allow the device to function properly over the course of the activity.



This power washing at a gas station is causing non-stormwater runoff (probably laden with fuel and oils) to enter the inlet that is ultimately connected to the regulated MS4 because controls are not in place.

Non-Stormwater Capture Devices

Non-stormwater capture devices include inlet covers or check dams with plastic covering that contain the runoff (*see photo on right*).

Capture devices are appropriate for short-term activities such as sawcutting and washing down paved areas.

Captured non-stormwater runoff is removed at the conclusion of activities (or at least daily) and disposed of in an acceptable manner.



This check dam protects a nearby inlet from sediment-laden non-stormwater runoff.

Other Considerations

Do not place landscape waste, broken up concrete/asphalt, gravel, soil, etc. in or near storm drain inlets or in a gutter with drainage patterns to an inlet. Sweep, pick up and bag, or otherwise dispose of such materials.

Stockpiles should be covered with tarps or berms placed around the stockpile if rain is forecasted, even if inlet protection devices are installed.

For questions about the borough's MS4 program and inlet protection, please contact:

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