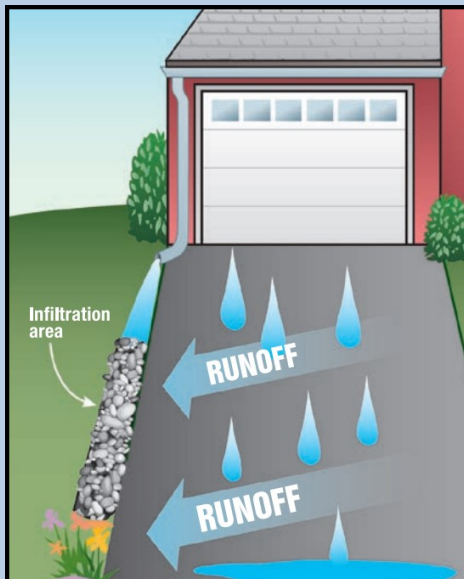


What is an infiltration area?

An infiltration area is a small trench or other area that collects rainwater from paved surfaces such as driveways, sidewalks, and rooftops, and allows it to absorb into the surrounding soil. An infiltration area receives rainwater from surface runoff as opposed to underground pipes like a buried dry well. Infiltration areas are common on residential lots where they are located next to driveways and approximately 10 feet from the nearest building. Their location can be identified by stone at the surface.



Who is responsible for this maintenance?

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

SUGGESTED MAINTENANCE ACTIONS*

MONTHLY

- Remove sediment and other debris that has accumulated on the gravel infiltration area or the flow path to the infiltration area. Even small amounts of sediment can cause rainwater to flow away from the infiltration area.
- Inspect your infiltration area during and after storms to make sure the rainwater properly drains to and through the infiltration area.
- Check the area a few days after rainfall to make sure the water does not pond on the surface for more than 48 hours.

AS NEEDED

- Remove leaf litter and tree debris from the infiltration area and the surrounding paved surfaces to ensure the flow of rainwater is not blocked.
- Remove accumulated sediment and weeds.
- Inform contractors working on your property of the infiltration area's location to prevent accidental damage.

DO NOT:

- Remove, alter, or pave over your infiltration area. If you claimed your infiltration area for the Stormwater Credit Program, removing or modifying it can result in loss of credit.
- Park cars on top of your infiltration area
- Blow grass clippings into the gravel surface.
- Place decks, sheds, or other structures on top of your infiltration area.

** Please refer to the Maryland Stormwater Design Manual, Volumes I and II for minimum requirements and procedures for maintaining BMPs. This document serves as the official guide for stormwater management principles, methods, and practices in the State of Maryland. Visit <http://bit.ly/MDESWDM>.*

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN YOUR INFILTRATION AREA

An unmaintained infiltration area may:

- Stop filtering the rainwater and allow trash and pollutants to enter into our local streams.
- Be difficult or expensive to repair if left unmaintained.
- Allow water to pool on the surface long enough to allow mosquitoes or other insects to breed (longer than 3 days).
- Cause flooding on other areas of your property.

Troubleshooting Issues

Symptom	Possible Cause	Solution
Standing water around the infiltration area.	Clogging due to leaf litter, sediment, or debris accumulation.	If standing water occurs longer than 48 hours, the infiltration area may be clogged. Remove any visible debris from the infiltration area. Check observation well for functionality.
Rainwater is not flowing into the infiltration area	Leaves, sediment, or other debris may be blocking the flowpath.	Remove any visible debris from the infiltration area and the flowpath. Be sure to check that paved surfaces are also clear.
Sediment is accumulating in the infiltration area.	Erosion may be occurring near the flowpath or washing off paved surfaces.	Stabilize any eroded areas with vegetation. Be sure paved surfaces are free of debris. If more than 6 inches of sediment has accumulated in the area, the stone/gravel media should be excavated and replaced.

Recommended timeframes for routine maintenance

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Remove sediment, leaves and debris		•			•			•			•	
Remove trash	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Weeding infiltration area					•	•	•	•	•	•		
Erosion control	— As needed —											

Typical Infiltration Area Profile (for illustrative purposes only)

