

Infiltration Trench Maintenance

Description

An infiltration trench is a dug-out channel usually filled with gravel that is used to control polluted or excess stormwater by slowing its flow and allowing it to absorb into the soil. The large pieces of gravel make it difficult for water to flow quickly across an infiltration trench, making the water more readily able to fall through the gravel and underlying sand and then filter into the ground before it reaches local streams. The capture of stormwater prevents nitrogen, phosphorus, and other pollutants from ultimately reaching the Chesapeake Bay and having negative effects on its water quality.



Required & Recommended Maintenance

- Mow surrounding grass and remove trash from the trench regularly.
- Remove vegetation and weeds from the surface of the trench yearly during the growing season or as-needed.
- Remove sediment buildup from the surface of the trench as needed.
- Make sure children, adults, and pets do not play with the filter material in the trench.
- Inform any contractors working on your property of the infiltration trench to avoid any accidental damage. Heavy machinery and foot traffic may make your trench less able to absorb water.
- After every major storm event, observe and make note of any damage to the structure of the trench, soil erosion along the path of the water, or if water pools in the trench for more than three days. These are signs of structural damage or wear to the trench that will need to be repaired.

