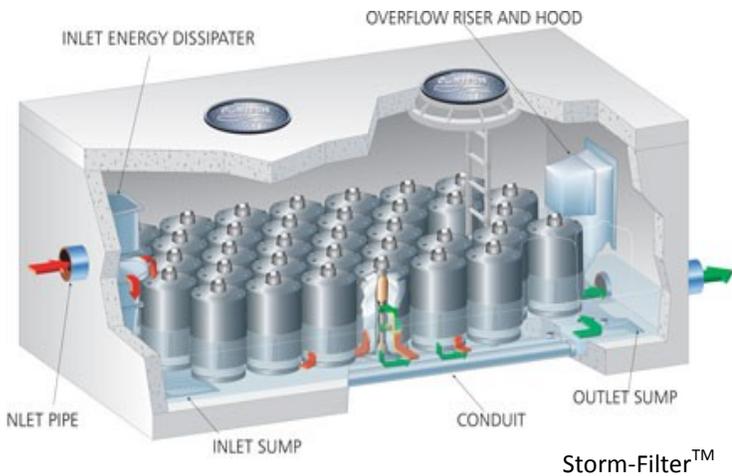




# Proprietary Underground Cartridge Filtering Facilities

## What are proprietary underground cartridge filtering facilities?

Proprietary underground cartridge filtering facilities remove pollutants from stormwater runoff by allowing it to flow through a filtration system. These systems are made by various manufacturers and have special filter cartridges to remove pollutants. Storm-Filter™ is the most common brand utilized in Harford County.



## How do they work?

Underground cartridge filtering facilities collect and filter stormwater runoff from your site. Flow splitters are often used to send a certain quantity of untreated water, known as the “first flush”, to an underground filtering facility. Stormwater flows into the facility through an underground inlet pipe and passes through filtration cartridges that remove pollutants. The filtered stormwater is then discharged downstream through an outlet pipe. This process removes pollutants and returns clean water back to the local stream or into the storm drain system.

## Why are underground cartridge filtering facilities important?

- Remove pollutants
- Improve health of streams and rivers
- Help to make our waters fishable and swimmable

## Basic Maintenance ...

- ✓ Pick up trash, debris, and leaves around your property and in front of inlets to your proprietary underground filtering facility
- ✓ Sweep paved areas on your property to remove pollutants, such as sediment and sand
- ✓ Know the pollutants on your property and try to eliminate the pollutants at the source
- ✓ Mark your inlets to ensure snow plow operators do not damage the facility
- ✓ Replace filtering cartridges at a minimum every year
- ✓ Flush storm drain system
- ✓ Remove trash and debris from the interior of the system

## As a reminder...

- ✗ Do not store chemicals, used oil, and pesticides out in the open—store in a covered area
- ✗ Do not stockpile sand or salt on your property unless they are covered in containment areas
- ✗ Do not wash commercial vehicles or mechanical equipment on paved areas that drain to the facility

## Who is responsible for the maintenance?

As the property owner, you are responsible for all maintenance of your proprietary underground cartridge filtering system.



Trash in filter system

# UNDERGROUND CARTRIDGE FILTERING FACILITIES

## Can I remove the underground filtering facility?

NO, you cannot remove these facilities. They have been structurally designed and permitted. Harford County maintains a database for all permitted structures including underground filtering facilities. Harford County is required to conduct an inspection every 3 years. If maintenance issues are found in need of repair, an inspection report will detail those items to be addressed within 30 days from the date of the notice.

## Why is it important to maintain these practices?

An unmaintained underground filtering facility may:

- Become clogged with sediment and debris, therefore water cannot be treated allowing sediment and pollutants to enter our streams.
- Not function properly because filters have become worn out.

Performing preventative maintenance regularly will prevent long term damage and reduce costs. It is recommended to remove any debris from the surface on a regular basis.

By maintain your practice, you are doing your part to help the environment and protect your local streams and the Chesapeake Bay.

**Your contractor should be certified in confined space entry. No one should enter the structure without proper training and certification for confined entry. Entering underground storage structures without meeting these requirements may be a violation of State law .**



## Troubleshooting

<u>Symptom</u>	<u>Solution</u>
Missing manhole cover	Replace manhole cover
Trash, debris, oil and grease, or sediment accumulation within underground filtering facility	Remove and properly dispose of trash, debris, or sediment
Missing steps/ladders	Repair or Replace steps/ladders
Clogged pipes and trash racks	Remove and properly dispose of debris causing clogging
Clogged filter and standing water for more than 3 days after rain event	Replace filter media and/or cartridges
Corrosion on metal pipes	Repair or replace corroded metal parts
Damaged structural components (eg., pipes, concrete, trash racks, pipe joints, proprietary units, and cartridges, etc.)	Contact Harford County immediately.

**Harford County can answer your questions and provide additional guidance on how to maintain your proprietary underground cartridge filtering facility.**

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