

FILTER STRIPS

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES GUIDANCE FOR PRIVATE OWNERS

WHAT IS A FILTER STRIP?

Filter strips are densely vegetated areas that collect and slow runoff from impervious surfaces, filtering out sediments and infiltrating pollutants. They should be uniformly graded at shallow slopes to encourage sheet flow and are best used in conjunction with other management practices, as they do not significantly reduce peak flows or runoff volume in large storms.

The necessary flow length of the filter strip is dependent on the slope of the site. Longitudinal slopes of 1-2% are recommended, while the maximum allowable is 5%. Steeper slopes encourage concentrated flow and may lead to channelization, while slopes flatter than 1% may result in ponding.

If flow into the filter strip is concentrated (such as from a pipe), a level spreader may be constructed at the top of the filter strip. These devices, which are constructed with level, durable surfaces (such as concrete) disperse flows over a wide area, dissipating the energy of the runoff and creating sheet flow.

Filter strips can help provide important water quality benefits, and the table to the right includes common maintenance items that should be performed to keep them functioning as intended.



MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

Activity	Frequency	Maintenance Notes
Routine Inspection	Twice per year	Perform a routine inspection twice a year to ensure the filter strip is operating properly and there are no visible issues such as erosion, unwanted vegetation, obstructions, or low spots.
Vegetation Management	As needed	Routine vegetation management on a strip includes mowing, keeping the filter strip clear of woody vegetation, and reseeding any barren areas. Mowing should only be performed during dry periods using lightweight equipment to prevent soil compaction and damage to vegetation.
Trash & Debris Removal	Every 1-3 months	Filter strips should be kept clear of debris to allow stormwater to flow as intended.
Sediment Removal	As needed	Over time, sediment buildup can alter the flow within your filter strip. To keep it functioning optimally, inspect for sediment build up and removed all accumulated sediment before re-vegetating as needed.

