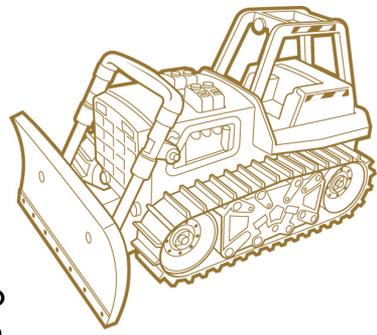


# Inlet protection



## What's the point?

Inlet protection systems are structures designed to filter runoff as it flows into the storm drain system.

Sediment can clog pipes or discharge directly to receiving waters through the storm drain system. In most inlet protection systems, a filtering system on or around an inlet filters runoff.

## Requirements

All storm drain inlets must be protected with appropriately designed and maintained method until all areas draining to inlet have been stabilized. Using inlet protection devices designed for easy maintenance simplifies permit compliance.

## Limitations and challenges

When designed or maintained improperly, inlet protection devices can pose a hazard both in terms of traffic safety and flooding. Inlet protection structures can often become clogged, restricting flow into the storm drain system, and causing flooding. They can be a traffic hazard if located on busy streets. Inlet protection devices are generally not very effective at filtering fine-grained sediment or large loads of sediment.

## Innovations and improvements

Synthetic commercial products are now available to cover both curb and grate inlets. Synthetic material is wrapped over the inlet to filter runoff. These products are relatively inexpensive at \$30 to \$55 plus installation, and do not hinder traffic. There are some concerns that these products can clog or cause flooding, like traditional inlet protection.

Another option is available for curb inlets. A curb inlet is a concrete box with a horizontal slot at the curb face. When the inlet is installed, the slot can be blocked with concrete (only perforations to mark the inlet). Then, the inlet can be “punched out” after the site is stabilized. Although this method does not filter runoff, it acts as a barrier to flow, protecting the new storm drain inlets.

# Fast Facts - Inlet protection

Approximate Cost: \$150-250 / inlet

Effectiveness	Low	Mod	High
Erosion/Sediment Control	X		
Long-Term			
Pollutant Reduction	X		
Habitat/ Stream Protection	X		

Ease of Application	Difficult	Average	Easy
Installation		X	
Maintenance	X		

## Limitations

High traffic areas



Left: Inlet protected with modified silt fence.



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