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TENNESSEE

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Inlet Protection Requirements

Inlet protection consists of permeable barriers installed around an inlet to filter runoff and prevent sediment and debris from entering the inlet. **All inlets at construction sites must have some form of protection installed prior to the beginning of construction.**

To function effectively, inlet protection measures must be installed to ensure that flows do not bypass the inlet protection and enter the storm drain without treatment. However, designs must also enable the inlet to function without completely blocking flows and cause localized flooding.

When selecting the type of inlet protection, consider factors such as type of inlet, traffic, anticipated flows, ability to secure the BMP properly, safety and other site-specific conditions.

Some methods are not allowed. These methods include using filter fabric installed under the inlet grates and the use of straw bales. Non-porous materials are to be avoided.

Inspect inlet protection frequently.

Inspection and maintenance guidance include:

- Inspect for tears that can result in sediment directly entering the inlet, as well as result in the contents of the inlet protection device (e.g., gravel) washing into the inlet.

- Check for improper installation resulting in untreated flows bypassing the BMP and directly entering the inlet or bypassing to an unprotected downstream inlet. For example, silt fence that has not been properly trenched around the inlet can result in flows under the silt fence and directly into the inlet.

- Look for displaced BMPs that are no longer protecting the inlet. Displacement may occur following larger storm events that wash away or reposition the inlet protection. Traffic or equipment may also crush or displace the BMP.

- Monitor sediment accumulation upgradient of the inlet protection.

- Remove sediment accumulation from the area upstream of the inlet protection, as needed to maintain BMP effectiveness, typically when it reaches no more than half the storage capacity of the inlet protection. Remove sediment accumulation from the area upstream of the inlet protection as needed to maintain the functionality of the BMP.

Inlet protection must be removed and properly disposed of when the drainage area for the inlet has reached final stabilization. Inlet protection is not a substitute for effective site EPSC measures.