Non-Rooftop Disconnection

Non-rooftop disconnection involves directing flow from impervious surfaces onto vegetated areas where it can soak into or filter over the ground. This disconnects these surfaces from storm drains and swales, reducing both runoff volume and pollutants delivered to receiving waters.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT — QUEEN ANNES COUNTY, MD

STORMWATER RUNOFF: WHAT IS IT & WHY SHOULD YOU CARE ABOUT IT?

It is water from rain or snowmelt that is not absorbed into the ground, but instead flows over land and paved surfaces. It picks up trash, chemicals, pet waste, and other pollutants. Unlike water from inside your house which is carried via pipes to a wastewater treatment plant or a septic system, stormwater runoff goes straight from the storm drain system to local waterways without being treated. As a result, stormwater runoff is a major cause of polluted water in our local waterways.

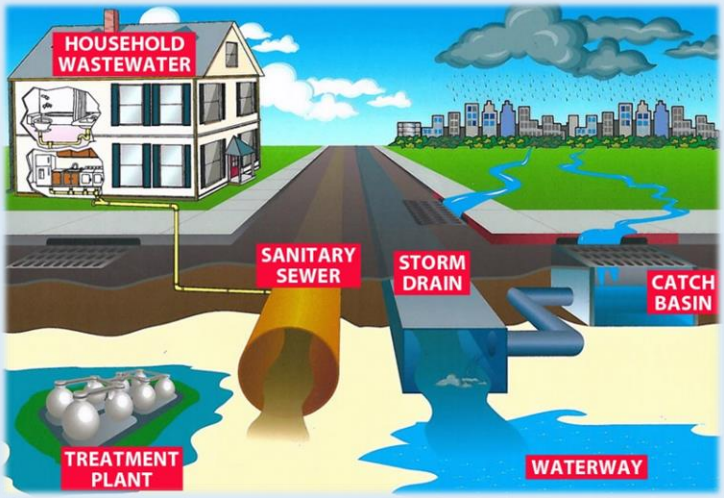
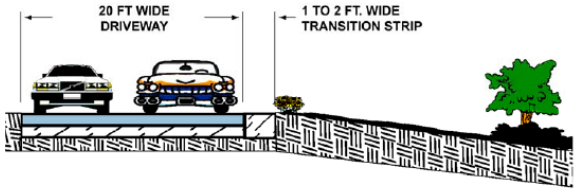
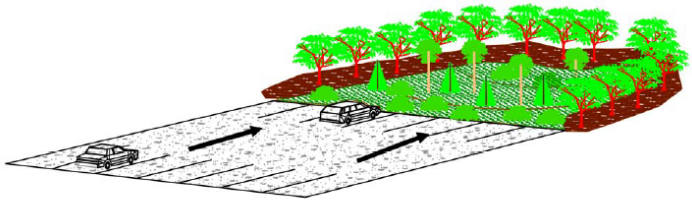


Image from Boston Water and Sewer Commission





Non-Rooftop Disconnection Benefits:

- Reduce polluted runoff to our local streams
- Reduce flooding
- Reduce erosion of our streambanks
- Increase infiltration and groundwater recharge

By maintaining the facility on your property, you are doing your part to help protect local waterways in Queen Anne's County as well as the Chesapeake Bay.

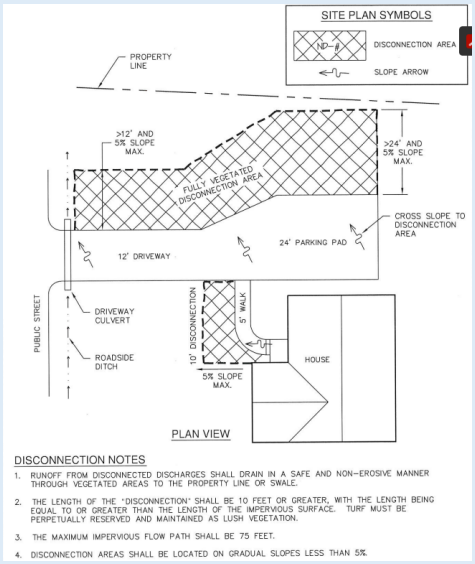
WHAT SHOULD YOU EXPECT IF YOU HAVE NONROOFTOP DISCONNECTIONS?

Runoff must be conveyed as sheetflow onto and across vegetated areas to maintain proper disconnection. Additionally, disconnections should be located on gradual slopes (≤ 5%) and directed away from buildings to both maintain sheetflow and prevent water damage to basements and foundations. The area reserved for disconnection must be perpetually maintained with healthy vegetation and free from further development, such as installation of pools, sheds, and walkways.

Non-rooftop Disconnection Components:

The primary component of a non-rooftop disconnection facility (as shown in Figure 1) is a vegetated strip parallel to the impervious surface.

- **Conveyance system/flow path:** provides for flow through the system. A one-two foot wide gravel transition strip may be present between the impervious area and the vegetated area.
- **Vegetated Area**: Vegetation can range from lawn to meadow to forest. Vegetation must be lush without bare spots.



Maintenance: What, When & Why?

As the property owner, you are responsible for regular maintenance of the facility. They require upkeep similar to other landscaped areas on your property including:

- Mowing/ Weeding
- Trash & Debris Removal

Unmaintained facilities will stop filtering stormwater, will become more expensive to maintain, and will no longer function properly.

Maintenance Do's & Don'ts

Do:	Don't:
Remove weeds, invasive plants, trash, & debris	Don't use fertilizer or pesticides
Check for erosion or bare areas and stabilize with vegetation as needed	Don't leave grass clippings, leaves, or debris on the facility surface
Consider not mowing to less than 3" and/or planting native plants	Don't apply excess salt to areas draining to facility
Maintain dense vegetation	Compact the soil
Check with the County to see if projects you want to do are in an area of disconnection	Don't fill in or remove facility

The first year following installation is critical for establishing the vegetation in non-rooftop disconnection facilities, especially watering. New plants should be watered regularly for the first 18 months or in times of drought (no rain for more than 10 days). Table 1 provides recommended time frames for typical maintenance activities:

Table 1:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Remove Sediment, Leaves, & Debris		★			★			★			★	
Remove Trash	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Weed Facility				★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	
Prune Vegetation		★							★	★	★	
Mow Facility				★	★	★	★	★	★			
Water, Replant, Repair/Stabilize Eroded/Bare Areas	PERFORM AS NEEDED											

Queen Anne's County gratefully acknowledges the Cecil County Stormwater Management Division for assisting with these materials

Have Questions or Need Additional Information?

If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact the SWM Team at 410.758.0925 or visit our website at: https://www.qac.org/997/Stormwater-Management