

Stormwater Drain Maintenance on Commercial Property



Stormwater is rainwater and anything it carries along with it. In Springfield when rain hits driveways, sidewalks and streets it is carried away by drainage ditches, swales and a system of pipes, typically ending up in the Willamette or McKenzie River. Unlike sewage, stormwater is not treated before being emptied into our waterways. Storm drains are designed to prevent flooding and improve the quality of water entering our rivers.

Exterior drains that collect rainwater are required to be connected to the stormwater system, while interior drains are connected to the wastewater (or sanitary) system. Although discharges to the wastewater system receive treatment before release to the Willamette River, discharges to the stormwater system receives no additional treatment. Therefore, unless it is intercepted by a treatment process, any pollutant that enters the stormwater system will eventually be carried to a waterway.

Proper stormwater drain maintenance is crucial for flood control and water quality protection. The City of Springfield Maintenance Division cleans all stormwater drains in the public right-of-way, drainage easements, and City-owned property. It is the private property owner's responsibility to maintain stormwater drains on his/her property to minimize release of pollutants to the public stormwater system. Failure to maintain a private system is considered a violation of the City of Springfield Municipal Code.

5.002 Nuisances Prohibited.

No person shall cause or permit a nuisance on public or private property and causing or permitting a nuisance constitutes an offense under this code. This section is intended to not only prohibit the nuisances set forth herein, but also intended to encourage civil enforcement of these community objectives in accordance with the legal doctrines of statutory tort and negligence per se. The following are declared to be nuisances to be abated and/or cited as a civil infraction as provided in this code:

(1) Dead Organic Matter and Debris. Depositing an animal carcass or part thereof, any excrement or sewage, industrial waste, or any putrid, nauseous, decaying, deleterious, offensive, hazardous or dangerous substance upon any premises or in a storm drain, stream, well, spring, brook, ditch, pond, river, or other inland waters within the city; any accumulation of decomposed animal or vegetable matter, garbage, rubbish, manure, offal, ashes, discarded containers, waste, paper, cartons, debris, trash, brush, tree limbs, hay, grass, straw, weeds, litter, rags, or other refuse matter or substance, which by itself or in conjunction with other substances is deleterious to public health or comfort, or is unsightly, or creates an offensive odor.

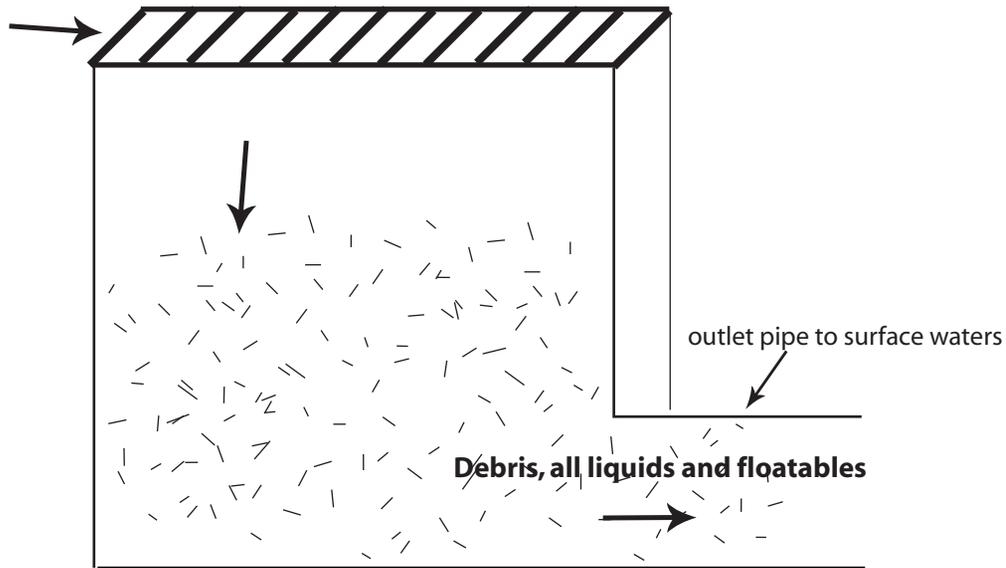
Stormwater Drain Maintenance Procedures

- Determine which features you have in your drains. Do they have collection sumps, separators, filters, or other water quality treatment components?
- Remove all debris from the collection sump when the debris reaches a level of one-half to two-thirds the distance between the bottom of the outgoing pipe and the bottom of the sump. Ensure the waste that has collected in the sump does not enter the outpipe during cleaning.
- Check the condition of the separator unit. There are several types. If the separator has a box with a lid, ensure the lid is on a closing properly. If the separator is a turn-down pipe, check to make sure the pipe is not broken. Never puncture the pipe or remove the lid if the drain appears plugged. Instead, remove the accumulated debris and unclog the pipe or inlet box.
- Consider using an oil-absorbent filter in the drain. Several types are available from environmental, safety, or industrial suppliers. Some drains can be easily retrofitted with a separator and/or a filter.
- In Lane County, storm drain debris is regulated as a "special waste." Call Lane County Waste Management at 682-3828 for information on the proper disposal of the removed waste or for names of companies that can legally dispose of such waste.
- Use "Best Management Practices" to reduce the need for storm drain maintenance. Keep outside areas clean through regular sweeping or other dry cleaning methods. Do not hose, wash, or dump anything into a storm drain. Cover materials outside to prevent rainwater from leaching pollutants into the stormwater system. Contain chemical properly and store under cover. Protect all drains during construction activities.

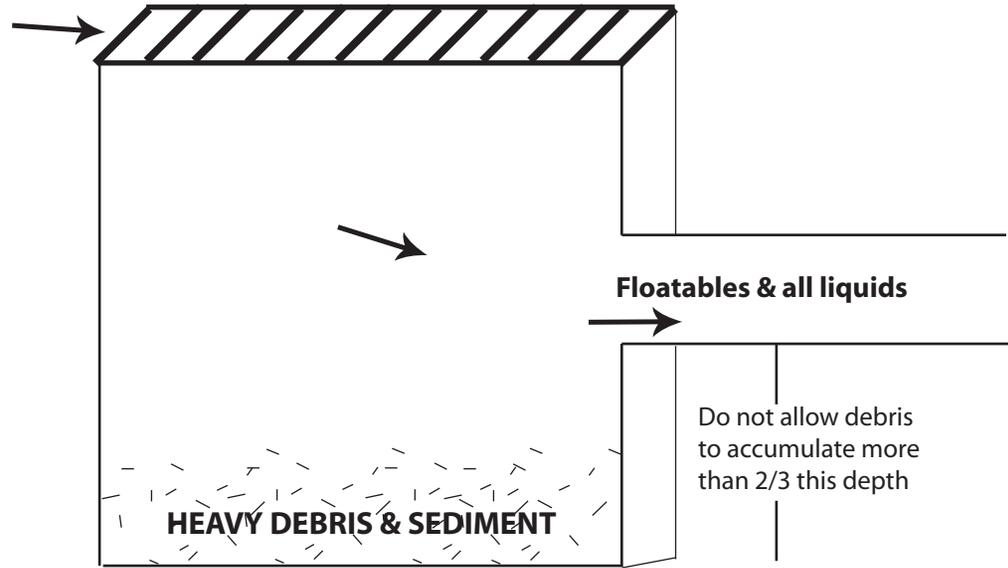
For more information on storm drain cleaning methods, companies that provide this service, or stormwater protection in general, please call the City of Springfield Environmental Services Division at 726-3694.

Typical Storm Drain Configurations

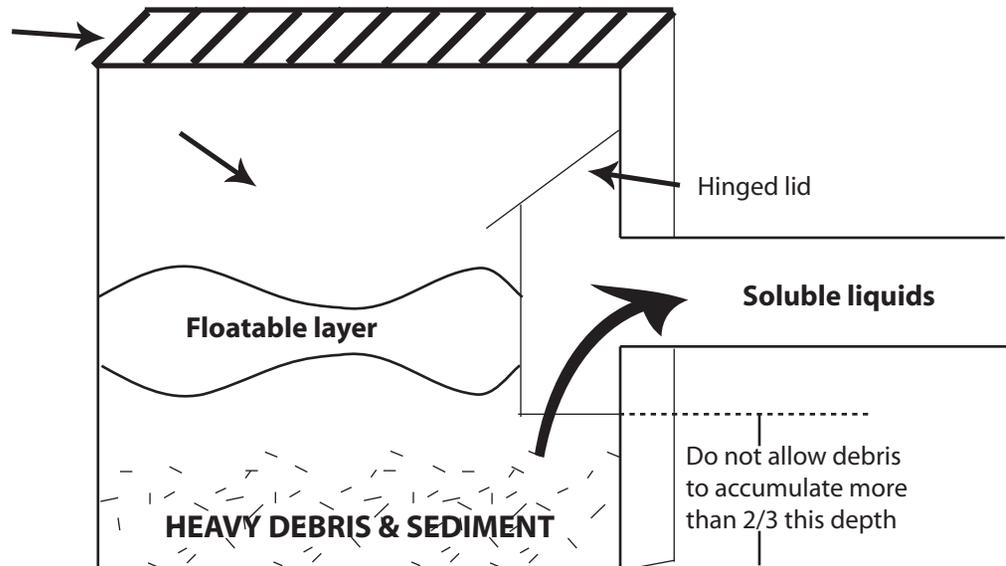
Drain without a sump or separator



Drain with sump - no separator
Retrofit with a "T" or elbow separator may be possible



Box Separator



Elbow Separator

