

Gravity (Oil-Grit) Separators

Gravity (oil-grit) separators are designed to treat stormwater runoff by removing settleable solids, oil and grease, debris and floatables from stormwater runoff through gravitational settling and trapping of pollutants. Typically these systems are underground and installed at inlet structures. Gravity (oil-grit) separators come in different shapes and sizes ranging from small to large systems that have multiple chambers that use gravity to separate sediment, floatables, and oil/grease from stormwater runoff.



There are some common problems to be aware of when maintaining gravity (oil-grit) separators. They include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Clogging in the inlet and outlet structure
- Sediment and oil/grease build-up
- Inability to remove dissolved or emulsified oils and pollutants such as coolants, soluble lubricants, glycols and alcohols

Routine inspection and maintenance should be performed on the gravity separator to ensure that the structure is functioning properly. Typical maintenance will include removing accumulated sediment and pressure washing the system to remove blockage. Additional maintenance may be necessary if a spill occurs upstream of the system and drains into the practice. The contributing drainage areas should be maintained to limit the amount of trash and debris that enter the practice.

Gravity (oil-grit) separators should be inspected after a large rainstorm. It may be necessary to make repairs to the inlets, outlets, and other structural components. Check with the manufacturer's guidelines for recommended maintenance on the system. In addition, it is required that a maintenance plan be developed and implemented.

The table below shows a schedule for when different maintenance activities should be performed on gravity (oil-grit) separators.

Gravity (Oil-Grit) Separators Typical Routine Maintenance Activities and Schedule

Activity	Schedule
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep contributing drainage area free of trash, chunks of sediment, and debris. • Cleanout if spill occurs and enters the system. • Repair structural components. • Check to make sure practice is draining properly. 	As needed (quarterly or after a large rain storm event)

Activity	Schedule
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check maintenance plan and/or manufacturer's guidelines for additional maintenance needs.• Check system to make sure no blockage or significant sediment accumulation is occurring in the system.	Quarterly
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cleanout system with vacuum or boom trucks.• Remove sediment and oil from chambers	Annually