STORMCEPTOR MAINTENANCE

INSPECTION OF STORMCEPTOR

Generally, maintenance is done once per year, but it is advisable to check the unit several times during the first year to determine the rate of sediment and oil accumulation. It is recommended that the unit be checked each 3 months for the first year. The inspection frequency in subsequent years is based on observations made during the first year. A maintenance inspection form should be completed annually to ensure timely maintenance and optimum performance of the Stormceptor.

The inspection is conducted by taking a sample from the unit using a clear plastic sampling tube. Commercial sampling tubes are available from water and wastewater equipment suppliers. The Stormceptor cover must be removed in order to take samples of the oil and sediment accumulation.

To check the level of sediment the sampling tube is lowered through the 24-inch discharge opening until it hits the bottom of the unit. Once the sampling tube is raised you can observe the level of sediment accumulation. Three samples should be taken and averaged. Maintenance should be performed once the sediment depth exceeds the guideline values provided in Table 1.

Table 1

Sediment Depths Indicating Required Maintenance

Model (USG)	Sediment Depth mm (in.)
900	150 (6)
1200	225 (7)
1800	300 (12)
2400	300 (12)
3600	375 (15)
4800	300 (12)
6000	450 (18)
7200	375 (15)

To check the level of oil in the Stormceptor the sampling tube is lowered through the 6-inch vent pipe into the upper portion of the separation tank. After removing

the sampler the water column can be examined. If more than 1 inch (approx. 15 USG) of oil (hydrocarbons) is observed then the oil should be removed.

CLEANING EQUIPMENT AND CONTRACTORS

Stormceptor units are normally cleaned using vacuum trucks. These trucks will suck the water and pollutants out of the unit. The most widely used truck is the Vactor vacuum truck, but other manufacturers and equipment are available. Commercial companies can be found in the Yellow Pages under “Tank Cleaning” or “Septic Cleaning”.

COST

The cost of maintenance can vary widely, and depends on the number, and size of the Stormceptor unit to be cleaned. The typical cost is about $600 per cleaning. The larger units may cost proportionally more. Economies of scale can be expected if several units are to be cleaned at once. A public bid to clean any size unit was received at $400.00 per unit for a jurisdiction with over 20 units installed.

DISPOSAL OF WASTE

The procedure used to dispose of the waste materials will depend upon the requirements in each jurisdiction. In general, the oil and other floating hydrocarbons are skimmed (pumped) off the surface for recycling. The sediment is removed from the Stormceptor by the vacuum truck. Local requirements will dictate sludge disposal options; several options include:

- the sludge is discharged directly to the sewerage treatment plant
- the sludge is dewatered into a dry material. The dried sludge would be taken to a landfill or incinerator (where acceptable). The clear water would be discharged into the sanitary sewer

OTHER INFORMATION

The owner of the Stormceptor should call the local, town, city, county, etc. official that is responsible for administering the stormwater management, drainage or water quality program for that jurisdiction to find out the specific reporting requirements in their area. You should be able to find this official in the municipal Department of Public Works, Engineer’s Office or the state Department of Environmental Protection.