

# Micro-Bioretenention Maintenance

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## Description

Micro-bioretenention is a filtration system that uses woody and grassy plants, soil, sand, and gravel to naturally filter pollutants collected from rainwater runoff through infiltration. Micro-bioretenention practices may also be underlain with a perforated pipe that will allow the water to flow to an outfall in the case of overflow.

Micro-bioretenention filters are ideal for areas of relatively small impervious cover and somewhat replicate the natural water filtering processes of forests. These gardens are functional landscaping features that promote the filtering of pollutants from stormwater before it gets to local waterways while being aesthetically pleasing.



## Required & Recommended Maintenance

- Mow grass filter areas surrounding the facility at least four times a year.
- Remove weeds and trash from the filter as needed. Rake the mulch twice every Spring.
- A 3-inch deep mulch cover should be maintained in a Micro-bioretenction practice. Mulch should be added to the filter yearly to keep it at this thickness. Mulch should be completely replaced every three years.
- Prune trees and shrubs yearly.
- Water should not stand in the filter for more than 3-4 days. If this happens, your pipe may need to be cleaned or the filter material may have to be replaced.
- If you have bare soil showing, stormwater may be moving too quickly into or across the filter. Plant new vegetation and/or replace dead plants uphill of the facility, or add medium to large rocks uphill of the filter to slow water flow.
- **Do not** use fertilizer or pesticides near a micro-bioretenction practice.

