

# SUBSURFACE DETENTION MAINTENANCE GUIDANCE

Maintenance of subsurface detention SMPs requires the periodic removal of sediment and debris from pretreatment and storage areas and the prevention of outlet control clogging. Sediment removal from vaults, chambers, and pipes is typically conducted using vacuum or flushing systems. Guidance on the use and operation of vacuum or flushing sediment removal equipment is beyond the scope of this Manual; a maintenance professional should be contacted for additional details. As applicable, subsurface detention SMP maintenance procedures must meet OSHA confined space entry requirements.

General recommended maintenance activities for subsurface detention systems are summarized in Table 4.8-1.

The designer is referred to Section 4.10, Pretreatment, Section 4.11, Inlet Controls, and Section 4.12, Outlet Controls, for information on maintenance guidance for pretreatment, inlet controls, and outlet controls.

**TABLE 4.8-1:  
Subsurface Detention Maintenance Guidelines**

	ACTIVITY	FREQUENCY
EARLY	Inspect erosion control and flow spreading devices until soil settlement and vegetative establishment of contributing areas has occurred.	<i>Biweekly</i>
	Inspect inlet controls, outlet structures, and storage areas for trash and sediment accumulation.	<i>Monthly for the first year after installation to determine ongoing maintenance frequency</i>
ONGOING	Regularly clean out gutters and catch basins to reduce sediment load to detention system. Clean intermediate sump boxes, replace filters, and otherwise clean pretreatment areas in directly connected systems. Remove sediment and debris from subsurface detention SMP sedimentation chamber, as applicable, when the sediment zone is 3/4 full.	<i>As Needed</i>
	Remove sediment and debris from pipe/vault systems. Sediment depth is not to reach a maximum depth of four inches below the SMP's outlet invert elevation. Removal of sediment from grid systems must be per manufacturer's recommendations or as per the site-specific maintenance schedule.	
	Inspect subsurface detention facility and control structures. Remove floating debris and accumulated petroleum products.	<i>Quarterly</i>
	Maintain records of all inspections and maintenance activity.	<i>Ongoing</i>