

### MAINTENANCE OVERVIEW



*Typical NDOT storm drain inlets do not collect and hold grit and debris; they may provide a direct conduit to a nearby stream, river, or lake.*



### STORM DRAIN INLET MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

**Description:**

Storm drain inlets quickly convey stormwater away from a paved surface, with the potential to carry pollutants directly to an adjacent waterbody. To maintain storm sewer system effectiveness, inlets must be periodically inspected and cleared of debris when necessary. In rare cases, an inlet may have a sump, collecting sediment and debris in the bottom. It is the goal of the Department that only stormwater enters storm drain inlets.

**Potential Pollutants:**

- Cleaning Products
- Fuel
- Metals and Rust
- Trash and Debris
- Salts (chlorides)
- Sediment
- Vehicle Fluids

## *Storm Drain Inlet Maintenance*

### **For Maintenance Facilities:**

- Inspect storm drain inlets at each maintenance facility monthly to ensure they are working effectively.
  - Remove any obstructions on the surface of the storm drain grate.
  - Inspect for presence of accumulated sediments within the inlet.
  - Inspect for any evidence of illicit discharges in or around the inlet.
- For inlets with a sump, remove accumulated sediment and debris with a Vactor unit or manually, if needed. Collect the accumulated debris for proper disposal.

### **For the Highway Environment:**

- Storm drain inlets that directly discharge to Waters of the State or adjacent MS4 jurisdictions (excludes combined sewer systems) are inspected semiannually, in the Spring after snowmelt and in the Fall.
- Inspect for sediment and debris build up in the drain inlet as well as on the grate.
- If there is evidence of gross contamination or illicit discharges (sewage or oil), stop cleaning and report to supervisor for follow up.
- Observe all storm drain inlets routinely for operation and safety of the roadside environment.
- If an inlet has been obstructed by sediment or debris, conduct the following procedures to clean the obstruction:
  - **If the stormwater discharge point downstream from the inlet discharges to a dry ditch**, the obstruction can be removed with a Vactor unit or by using a water jet system. Use proper Sediment Control Best Management Practices to prevent sediment and material from impacting any downstream waterbodies. Collect the accumulated debris for proper disposal.
  - **If the stormwater discharge point downstream from the inlet discharges directly to a waterbody**, the obstruction should be removed with a Vactor unit. Collect the accumulated debris for proper disposal.
  - **If the stormwater discharge point downstream from the inlet connects to an adjacent municipal storm sewer**, coordinate with the adjacent municipality to determine the appropriate procedure for obstruction removal.

### **For Material Dewatering and Disposal:**

- If collected materials are temporarily stored at a maintenance facility prior to being transported to a certified landfill:
  - **For Dry Solid Waste:** Store material in a dedicated location away from a storm drain inlet or stormwater flow path.
  - **For Solid Waste Dewatering:** No dewatered liquid shall be allowed to

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enter the storm drain system. Consider one of the following options when dewatering solid waste material at the facility:

- Maintain an adequate distance from a storm drain and perimeter flow path leaving the facility. Install a temporary sediment control device around storm drains or perimeter flow paths when necessary.
- Discharge dewatering material to an oil/water separator system, connected to a sanitary sewer.
- Transport collected materials to a registered landfill or approved site in accordance with local regulations.