

Important: Inspection should be performed by a person who is familiar with the StormFilter treatment unit.

StormFilter Maintenance Guidelines

Maintenance requirements and frequency are dependent on the pollutant load characteristics of each site, and may be required in the event of a chemical spill or due to excessive sediment loading.

Maintenance Procedures

Although there are other effective maintenance options, CONTECH recommends the following two step procedure:

1. Inspection: Determine the need for maintenance.
2. Maintenance: Cartridge replacement and sediment removal.

Inspection and Maintenance Activity Timing

At least one scheduled inspection activity should take place per year with maintenance following as warranted.

First, inspection should be done before the winter season. During which, the need for maintenance should be determined and, if disposal during maintenance will be required, samples of the accumulated sediments and media should be obtained.

Second, if warranted, maintenance should be performed during periods of dry weather.

In addition, you should check the condition of the StormFilter unit after major storms for potential damage caused by high flows and for high sediment accumulation. It may be necessary to adjust the inspection/maintenance activity schedule depending on the actual operating conditions encountered by the system.

Generally, inspection activities can be conducted at any time, and maintenance should occur when flows into the system are unlikely.

Maintenance Activity Frequency

Maintenance is performed on an as needed basis, based on inspection. Average maintenance lifecycle is 1-3 years. The primary factor controlling timing of maintenance of the StormFilter is sediment loading. Until appropriate timeline is determined, use the following:

Inspection:

- One time per year
- After major storms

Maintenance:

- As needed
- Per regulatory requirement
- In the event of a chemical spill

Inspection Procedures

It is desirable to inspect during a storm to observe the relative flow through the filter cartridges. If the submerged cartridges are severely plugged, then typically large amounts of sediments will be present and very little flow will be discharged from the drainage pipes. If this is the case, then maintenance is warranted and the cartridges need to be replaced.

Warning: In the case of a spill, the worker should abort inspection activities until the proper guidance is obtained. Notify the local hazard control agency and CONTECH immediately.

To conduct an inspection:

1. If applicable, set up safety equipment to protect and notify surrounding vehicle and pedestrian traffic.
2. Visually inspect the external condition of the unit and take notes concerning defects/problems.
3. Open the access portals to the vault and allow the system vent.
4. Without entering the vault, visually inspect the inside of the unit, and note accumulations of liquids and solids.
5. Be sure to record the level of sediment build-up on the floor of the vault, in the forebay, and on top of the cartridges. If flow is occurring, note the flow of water per drainage pipe. Record all observations. Digital pictures are valuable for historical documentation.
6. Close and fasten the access portals.
7. Remove safety equipment.
8. If appropriate, make notes about the local drainage area relative to ongoing construction, erosion problems, or high loading of other materials to the system.
9. Discuss conditions that suggest maintenance and make decision as to whether or not maintenance is needed.

Maintenance Decision Tree

The need for maintenance is typically based on results of the inspection. Use the following as a general guide. (Other factors, such as regulatory requirements, may need to be considered)

1. Sediment loading on the vault floor. If $>4"$ of accumulated sediment, then go to maintenance.
2. Sediment loading on top of the cartridge. If $>1/4"$ of accumulation, then go to maintenance.
3. Submerged cartridges. If $>4"$ of static water in the cartridge bay for more than 24 hrs after end of rain event, then go to maintenance.
4. Plugged media. If pore space between media granules is absent, then go to maintenance.
5. Bypass condition. If inspection is conducted during an average rain fall event and StormFilter remains in bypass condition (water over the internal outlet baffle wall or submerged cartridges), then go to maintenance.
6. Hazardous material release. If hazardous material release (automotive fluids or other) is reported, then go to maintenance.
7. Pronounced scum line. If pronounced scum line (say $\geq 1/4"$ thick) is present above top cap, then go to maintenance.
8. Calendar Lifecycle. If system has not been maintained for 3 years, then go to maintenance.

Assumptions:

No rainfall for 24 hours or more.

No upstream detention (at least not draining into StormFilter).

Structure is online. Outlet pipe is clear of obstruction. Construction bypass is plugged.

Maintenance

Depending on the configuration of the particular system, workers will be required to enter the vault to perform the maintenance.

Important: If vault entry is required, OSHA rules for confined space entry must be followed.

Filter cartridge replacement should occur during dry weather. It may be necessary to plug the filter inlet pipe if base flow is occurring.

Replacement cartridges can be delivered to the site or customers facility. Contact CONTECH for more information.

Warning: In the case of a spill, the worker should abort maintenance activities until the proper guidance is obtained. Notify the local hazard control agency and CONTECH immediately.

To conduct cartridge replacement and sediment removal:

1. If applicable, set up safety equipment to protect workers and pedestrians from site hazards.
2. Visually inspect the external condition of the unit and take notes concerning defects/problems.
3. Open the doors (access portals) to the vault and allow the system to vent.
4. Without entering the vault, give the inside of the unit, including components, a general condition inspection.
5. Make notes about the external and internal condition of the vault. Give particular attention to recording the level of sediment build-up on the floor of the vault, in the forebay, and on top of the internal components.
6. Using appropriate equipment offload the replacement cartridges (up to 150 lbs. each) and set aside.
7. Remove used cartridges from the vault using one of the following methods:

Method 1:

- A. This activity will require that workers enter the vault to remove the cartridges from the under drain manifold and place them under the vault opening for lifting (removal). Unscrew (counterclockwise rotations) each filter cartridge from the underdrain connector. Roll the loose cartridge, on edge, to a convenient spot beneath the vault access.

Using appropriate hoisting equipment, attach a cable from the boom, crane, or tripod to the loose cartridge. Contact CONTECH for suggested attachment devices.

Important: Cartridges containing leaf media (CSF) do not require unscrewing from their connectors. Do not damage the manifold connectors. They should remain installed in the manifold and can be capped during the maintenance activity to prevent sediments from entering the under drain manifold.

- B. Remove the used cartridges (up to 250 lbs.) from the vault.

Important: Avoid damaging the cartridges during removal and installation.

- C. Set the used cartridge aside or load onto the hauling truck.
- D. Continue steps A through C until all cartridges have been removed.

Method 2:

- A. Enter the vault using appropriate confined space protocols.
- B. Unscrew the cartridge cap.
- C. Remove the cartridge hood screws (3) hood and float.
- D. At location under structure access, tip the cartridge on its side.

Important: Note that cartridges containing media other than the leaf media require unscrewing from their threaded connectors. Take care not to damage the manifold connectors. This connector should remain installed in the manifold and capped if necessary.

- E. Empty the cartridge onto the vault floor. Reassemble the empty cartridge.
- F. Set the empty, used cartridge aside or load onto the hauling truck.
- G. Continue steps a through E until all cartridges have been removed.
8. Remove accumulated sediment from the floor of the vault and from the forebay. Use vacuum truck for highest effectiveness.
9. Once the sediments are removed, assess the condition of the vault and the connectors. The connectors are short sections of 2-inch schedule 40 PVC, or threaded schedule 80 PVC that should protrude about 1" above the floor of the vault. Lightly wash down the vault interior.
 - a. Replace any damaged connectors.
10. Using the vacuum truck boom, crane, or tripod, lower and install the new cartridges. Take care not to damage connections.
11. Close and fasten the door.
12. Remove safety equipment.
13. Finally, dispose of the accumulated materials in accordance with applicable regulations. Make arrangements to return the used empty cartridges to CONTECH.

Material Disposal

The accumulated sediment must be handled and disposed of in accordance with regulatory protocols. It is possible for sediments to contain measurable concentrations of heavy metals and organic chemicals. Areas with the greatest potential for high pollutant loading include industrial areas and heavily traveled roads.

Sediments and water must be disposed of in accordance with applicable waste disposal regulations. Coordinate disposal of solids and liquids as part of your maintenance procedure. Contact the local public works department to inquire how they disposes of their street waste residuals.