



City of Goshen

STORMWATER TOOLBOX

Public Works & Utilities
Department of Stormwater
204 E. Jefferson Street
Goshen, Indiana 46528
574-534-2201

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Inlet Protection is Important

Sediment is a major pollutant of waterways worldwide and it is very important that measures are taken to keep it out of our waterways. Thus, inlet protection measures (and there are many) are used to keep sediment and other pollutants above ground where it is easier to clean up and out of the storm sewer.

One type of inlet protection frequently used by the City and Contractors is called a coir (coconut) fiber mat, kind of like a welcome mat at your front door, and it is secured to the metal grate of the storm drain with zip ties. It is very important to properly secure the inlet mat to the grate so no sediment washes under the mat and into the storm sewer. The following are the steps City employees and Contractors should follow when installing this kind of mat:

- 1) Sweep sediment and debris away from the inlet.
- 2) Cut the material so the mat extends at least one inch beyond the edge of the grate.
- 3) Place the mat with the net side down on the grate.
- 4) Install the zip ties and yellow hold-down pads (if part of installation kit) by lifting up the edge of the mat to locate the first grate bar from the edge of the grate. The hold-down pads help spread out the pressure of the zip ties and prevent the zip ties from pulling through the mat.
- 5) Depending upon the type of grate the inlet protection mat is being installed on, 6 - 8 zip ties will need to be used as shown in these pictures.
- 6) Once all the zip ties have been installed, tighten them and cut the extra off to one inch above the mat.
- 7) In extreme flow events or low lying areas with no alternative drainage, the back of the curb inlet should remain exposed to prevent unsafe conditions from developing.



Finally, maintenance is very important to make sure water continues to flow through the mat and does not pond on the road. The top and sides of the mat should be swept after each 1/2 inch rain event and if water is ponding around the inlet the removal of built-up debris will allow water to flow through the mat.

If water does not flow through the mat or it has been damaged by passing vehicles, it must be replaced. After a mat has been removed, all pieces should be picked up and disposed of properly.

Note, inlet mats are to only be used on low volume or secondary roads for safety reasons.



A DROP OF NEWS

Your Stormwater Newsletter

When grass clippings become a stormwater pollutant they can cause drainage issues and help increase the growth of algae, which can look bad and create health issues for wildlife, humans, and their pets. Thus, it is important to keep grass clippings in your yard and off the street.

Here are some tips on how to protect water quality and maintain your yard:

❖ Leave the clippings on the lawn or compost them for a natural fertilizer.

❖ Use a mulching lawn mower or at least direct the chute away from the street.

❖ Mow often enough that only one-third of the length of the grass is removed.

❖ The most important tip is to sweep up or blow grass clippings off the street and back into the lawn.

For more information, visit the following website and click on brochures #3 and #4.

www.goshenindiana.org/education



Please Don't Clog the Storm Drain

Keep your grass clippings in your yard

Only rain down the storm drain

goshenindiana.org/education



Report an Illicit Discharge

An illicit discharge is anything other than rain that could flow or be washed into a storm drain. If you see something that doesn't look right please call 574-534-2201, send an email to jasonkauffman@gohsencity.com, or submit a Stormwater Report through the City of Goshen's new "Report an Issue" button in the upper corner of the City's website (www.goshenindiana.org).

