

Stormwater Technology: Stormceptor (Hydro Conduit, formerly CSR New England Pipe)

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The **Stormceptor Fact Sheet** is one in a series of fact sheets for stormwater technologies and related performance evaluations, which are undertaken by the **Massachusetts STRategic Envirotechnology Partnership (STEP)**.

The STEP evaluation entitled, *Technology Assessment, Stormceptor CSR New England Pipe*, January 1998 is the information source for this fact sheet. When a more thorough understanding of a system is required, the full *Technology Assessment* should be reviewed. Copies are available for downloading from the STEP Web site (www.STEPSITE.org/) or by contacting the STEP Program (Phone: 617/626/1197, FAX: 617/626/1180, email: linda.benevides@state.ma.us). This fact sheet is subject to future updates as additional performance information becomes available.

Description/Definition

Stormceptor is a prefabricated, underground unit that separates oils, grease, and sediment from stormwater runoff when installed with an existing or new pipe conveyance system. The unit is divided into two chambers—a treatment and a flow bypass chamber. During typical storm events, runoff is directed by the inflow weir through a drop pipe into the lower treatment chamber where sediment, oil, and grease are separated from the flow by gravity. The bypass chamber is designed to convey excess stormwater, which overtops the inflow weir, through the system without treatment.

Equipment and Sizing

The on-line Stormceptor units are available in eight sizes ranging from six and twelve feet in diameter with capacities of 900 to 7200 gallons. Since issuing the STEP assessment in 1998, the manufacturer has expanded the Stormceptor product line to include a storm drain inlet (STC 450i) and three units (Models STC 11000, STC 13000, and STC16000). These systems are not included in the STEP evaluation. Users and decision-makers may require additional field test results and new data for these new systems in order to accept performance ratings, particularly if they are higher than those reported in the STEP technology assessment and this fact sheet.

Stormceptor units are available in either precast concrete or fiberglass for special applications. Concrete units are pre-engineered for HS-20 min. traffic loading at the surface. Fiberglass units can be used in areas where there is a potential for oil and chemical spills.

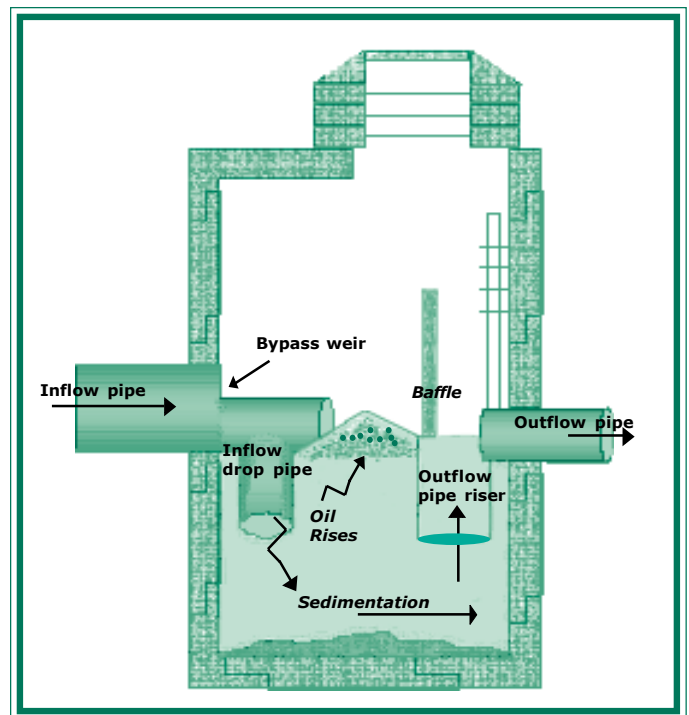


Figure 1. Stormceptor operation during average flow conditions.

Performance/Effectiveness

The system is designed to provide separation of sediment, oil, and grease from stormwater by routing runoff into a low-turbulence environment where solids settle and oils float out of solution. The system sizing is based on the drainage area, historical rainfall data, and the solids removal efficiency required. It is recommended that the system be used in combination with other stormwater controls to conform with the Massachusetts Stormwater Management Policy and standards.



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An Imperial Model STC 2000 (equivalent to the Model STC 2400) in Edmonton, Canada treats flow from a 9.8 acre commercial parking lot. This system was monitored during four storm events in 1996 and shown to have an average total suspended solids (TSS) removal efficiency of 52 percent. In designing a system to achieve a comparable removal efficiency, the relationship between system size and impervious drainage area should be considered, as detailed in Table 1 and the Technology Assessment Report.

A Model STC 1200 in Westwood, Massachusetts treats flow from 0.65 acres consisting of a paved truck loading area at a manufacturing facility. The unit was monitored for six storm events in 1997, but only four events had measurable TSS influent concentrations. Of these four events, the average TSS removal efficiency was calculated to be 77 percent, which is less than the 80 percent removal targeted by the manufacturer.

Based on these field monitoring results, and when the unit sizing follows the guidance in Table 1, removal efficiencies between 52 percent and 77 percent may be achieved where installations have similar rainfall and land use characteristics as those reviewed for the STEP evaluation. It is recommended that additional field research and new data be evaluated to validate performance ratings higher than those verified by STEP.

Specific performance claims for oil and grease were not evaluated by STEP. However, total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) were analyzed during the Westwood study. Results indicated that the unit was effective in capturing oils.

Stormceptor Model Number	Maximum Impervious Area (acres)	
	77% TSS removal	52% TSS removal
STC 900	0.45	0.9
STC 1200	0.7	1.45
STC 1800	1.25	2.55
STC 2400	1.65	3.35
STC 3600	2.6	5.3
STC 4800	3.6	7.25
STC 6000	4.6	9.25
STC 7200	5.55	11.25

Table 1: Sizing for TSS removal (adapted from the manufacturer's sizing in the 1998 STEP Report) Use the table to determine a TSS removal rate. Use the new Rinker method for sizing Stormceptor units. The sizing method has been changed since publication of the STEP Report.
Note: To achieve 52% and 77% TSS removal rates on some sites, it may be necessary to use lower maximum impervious areas than those in Table 1.

Technology Status

The Stormceptor system provides greater solids separation and higher TSS removal efficiencies than oil and grit separators. Stormceptor systems are among the category of hydrodynamic separators, which are flow-through devices with the capacity to settle or separate grit, oil, sediment, or other pollutants from stormwater. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "Hydrodynamic separators are most effective where the materials to be removed from runoff are heavy particulates - which can be settled - or floatables - which can be captured, rather than solids with poor settleability or dissolved pollutants."

The field studies evaluated for the STEP assessment predate the Stormwater Best Management Practice Demonstration Tier II Protocol (2001), which is applicable in Massachusetts and other states in the Technology Acceptance Reciprocity Partnership (TARP), to ensure quality controlled studies that can be shared among participating states. Therefore, interstate reciprocity is not available to the manufacturer, based on performance claims that were evaluated by STEP in 1998. If the TARP Protocol requirements are fulfilled in the future, the manufacturer could pursue reciprocal verification for Stormceptor systems in participating TARP states. More information on the TARP Protocol is available on the following Web site: www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/pollprev/techservices/tarp.

Applications/Advantages

- Stormceptor systems identified in Table 1 should be used in combination with other BMPs to remove 80 percent of the average annual load of TSS (DEP Stormwater Policy Standard 4). Systems may be well suited for pretreatment in a mixed component system designed for stormwater recharge.
- Performance data show that Stormceptor may provide TSS removal rates in the range of 52 percent to 77 percent when sized according to Table 1. Higher TSS removal rates were achieved during low flow, low intensity storms with less than one third of an inch of runoff. Also, by reducing the impervious drainage area, relative to the system size, the STEP Technology Assessment Report indicated that higher removal efficiencies may be achievable. However, STEP recommends collection of additional data "representing a varied set of operating conditions over a realistic maintenance cycle to verify TSS removal rates greater than 80 percent."
- The Stormceptor system is suitable for new and retrofit applications. For retrofit applications, it should not

take the place of a catch basin for the systems that have been verified. Also, for retrofit applications, it should be installed in lateral lines and not main trunk lines.

- ✦ The system is particularly well suited in constricted areas and where space is limited.
- ✦ It also is suitable for use in areas of high potential pollutant loads (DEP Stormwater Policy Standard 5), where it may be used effectively in capturing and containing oil and chemical spills. *Web site:* www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/stormwtr/stormpub.htm.

Considerations/Limitations

- ✦ Systems are not expected to provide significant nutrient (nitrogen and phosphorus) or fecal coliform removal.
- ✦ The systems are not recommended for use in critical areas, such as public drinking water supplies, certified vernal pools, public swimming beaches, shellfish growing areas, cold water fisheries, and some Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), except as a pre-treatment device for BMPs that have been approved by DEP for use in critical areas. The structural BMPs approved for use in critical areas are described in Standard 6 of the Stormwater Management Policy, www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/stormwtr/stormpub.htm.
- ✦ There is a limited set of useful data for predicting the relationship between treatment efficiency and loading rates. Removal efficiencies have not been demonstrated for all unit sizes.
- ✦ Further research is needed to determine how much TSS bypasses the treatment chamber during certain, higher velocity storm events which recur less frequently.
- ✦ Systems require regular maintenance to minimize the potential for washout of the accumulated sediments.

Reliability/Maintenance

All BMPs require scheduled, routine maintenance to ensure that they operate as efficiently as possible. Although maintenance requirements are site specific, a general relationship between cleaning needs and depths of sediment has been established by the manufacturer. Inspection of the Stormceptor interior should be done after major storm events, particularly in the first year of operation. It is recommended that material in the treatment chamber be pumped out by a vacuum truck semiannually, or when the sediment and pollutant loads reach about 15 percent of the total storage. If the unit is used for spill containment, it should be pumped after the event is contained. Typical cleaning costs were estimated by the manufacturer in 1998 to be \$250, with disposal costs

averaging \$300 to \$500. The expected life of a system has been estimated to be 50 to 100 years.

Sediment Depths Indicating Required Maintenance	
Model Number	Sediment Depth (feet)
STC 900	0.5
STC 1200	0.75
STC 1800	1
STC 2400	1
STC 3600	1.25
STC 4800	1
STC 6000	1.5
STC 7200	1.25

Table 2: The Stormceptor clean out is based on 15 percent of the sediment storage volume in the

References

- Winkler, E.S. 1998. "Technology Assessment, Stormceptor." University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA.
STEP Web site: www.STEPSITE.org/
- Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and Office of Coastal Zone Management. 1997. "Stormwater Management Handbooks, Volumes One and Two." Boston, MA. *Handbooks Web site:* www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/stormwtr/stormpub.htm.
- United States Environmental Protection Agency. "Storm Water Technology Fact Sheet Hydrodynamic Separators." EPA 832-F-99-017.
- Stormceptor Web sites:* www.rinkermaterials.com/stormceptor
- TARP Web site:* www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/pollprev/techservices/tarp

STEP Verification vs. Regulatory Approval

STEP assistance to developers of innovative technologies and STEP verification of stormwater treatment systems is not required to receive necessary approvals from conservation commissions or the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). However, if a system has received verification, a conservation commission shall presume that the technology will function as proposed, provided the conditions are similar to those in which performance was verified. STEP reports are not technology approvals, and do not constitute an endorsement or recommendation for use. Questions on regulatory issues should be referred to the DEP regional offices.