Protection Requirements for Right-of-Way Green Infrastructure (Rain Gardens, Infiltration Basin, and Permeable Pavements)

What is Green Infrastructure?
Right-of-Way (ROW) Green Infrastructure (GI) practices are low-cost sustainable strategies that reduce and treat stormwater through natural processes such as infiltration and evapotranspiration.

How to Identify GI
Look for signs of stormwater conveyance:
- tapered curbs
- cuts in the curb
- stormwater grates

Look for other identifying features:
- signs with DEP Logo
- rain garden decals
- pucks on header near sidewalk

General Protection Measures
- control construction runoff and debris at the source, to the extent possible
- install protection measures at all nearby and downstream GI practices
- set up physical barriers to discourage people, equipment, and materials from entering the GI practice
- avoid stepping in the planting bed when installing protection measures
- never stockpile materials within or on top of a GI practice

Installing protection measures is easier than repairing damage.

Rain Gardens
Protection Measures
- install sand bags to block curb cuts
- install inlet filter bags in stormwater drains (empty inlet filter bag when it becomes full)

- install temporary silt fencing around rain garden (fence should be 3’ high and not damage plants when inserted or removed)

- install temporary coverings - erosion control fabric or plastic - over bare soil for rain gardens without plantings (gently secure)
- avoid stepping into planting bed when installing protection measures
- never place materials within or on top of a rain garden

nyc.gov/greeninfrastructure
Infiltration Basins

Protection Measures

• install sand bags to block curb cuts
• cover or close grate openings using plywood, rigid plastic board, or proprietary filtering system (secure materials as needed)
• place cones to identify tripping hazards on the sidewalk
• never stockpile materials on top of infiltration basins

Permeable Pavements

Protection Measures near Permeable Surfaces

• install silt socks around nearby/downstream permeable pavements
• install temporary coverings over entire permeable surface and secure in place
• avoid heavy machinery
• if heavy machinery is unavoidable, use steel plates - place steel plates gently and do not drag across pavement surface

Protection Measures within Permeable Pavements

• carefully remove precast porous concrete slabs and permeable pavers
  ° lift slabs vertically and not on an angle (most slabs have cast-in 1/2” lifting inserts)
  ° only if necessary, cut slabs at joints
• conduct infiltration test before work and after reinstallation to ensure similar infiltration performance

Key Contractor Responsibilities

• keep protective measures in place until completion of construction activity or DOT Street Opening Permit is no longer required
• properly remove all protective measures after completion of construction
• notify DEP to inspect protection installation and removal

The Contractor is liable for damage to GI practices if proper controls are not installed and maintained throughout.

Web: nyc.gov/dep/greeninfrastructure
Email: giutility@dep.nyc.gov
Phone: 718-595-7599