



Catch Basin Almost Entirely Blocked by Debris



Litter and Organic Debris Blocking a Storm Drain



Cigarette Butts on Sidewalk



General Information

Gross solids include trash, cigarette butts and floatables as well as organic matter such as leaf litter and grass clippings. Trash can cause storm systems to not function properly due to blockages and provide habitat for vectors such as mosquitoes. Nutrients, such as phosphorus and nitrogen, found in organic matter, can be pollutants.

Best Management Practices

- Street sweeping, litter cleanups, stream cleanups, recycling programs and neighborhood cleanups.
- Use of gross solid reducing devices that are appropriate for the situation such as catch basin opening screen covers, catch basin inserts, hydrodynamic separators and end of pipe devices to name a few.
- Monitor gross solids in stormwater (location, weight, size, etc...)
- Proper maintenance of all structures including cleaning out when needed.
- Public education regarding litter and phosphorus laws, overall impacts of gross solids and what citizens can do to reduce this impact.

Additional Information

EPA

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/menuofbmps/index.cfm?action=browse&Rbutton=detail&bmp=5&minmeasure=1>

NYSDEC

Sections 2.2 and 10.1.2 of the 2010 NYS Stormwater Design Manual - <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/29072.html>

Other

<http://www.water.ncsu.edu/watershedss/info/norganics.html>

<http://www.stormwater.ucf.edu/conferences/9thstormwatercd/documents/ASCEguidelines.pdf>

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/pdf/CTSW-RT-03-072.pdf>