



**NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES)  
 STORMWATER DISCHARGES FROM  
 SMALL MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEMS  
 BMP EFFECTIVENESS VALUES**

This table of BMP effectiveness values (i.e., pollutant removal efficiencies) is intended for use by MS4s that are developing and implementing Pollutant Reduction Plans and TMDL Plans to comply with NPDES permit requirements. The values used in this table generally consider pollutant reductions from both overland flow and reduced downstream erosion, and are based primarily on average values within the Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool (CAST) ([www.casttool.org](http://www.casttool.org)). Design considerations, operation and maintenance, and construction sequences should be as outlined in the Pennsylvania Stormwater BMP Manual, Chesapeake Bay Program guidance, or other technical sources. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will update the information contained in this table as new information becomes available. Interested parties may submit information to DEP for consideration in updating this table to DEP's MS4 resource account, [RA-EPPAMS4@pa.gov](mailto:RA-EPPAMS4@pa.gov). Where an MS4 proposes a BMP not identified in this document or in Chesapeake Bay Program expert panel reports, other technical resources may be consulted for BMP effectiveness values. Note – TN = Total Nitrogen and TP = Total Phosphorus.

BMP Name	BMP Effectiveness Values			BMP Description
	TN	TP	Sediment	
Wet Ponds and Wetlands	20%	45%	60%	A water impoundment structure that intercepts stormwater runoff then releases it to an open water system at a specified flow rate. These structures retain a permanent pool and usually have retention times sufficient to allow settlement of some portion of the intercepted sediments and attached nutrients/toxics. Until recently, these practices were designed specifically to meet water quantity, not water quality objectives. There is little or no vegetation living within the pooled area nor are outfalls directed through vegetated areas prior to open water release. Nitrogen reduction is minimal.
Dry Detention Basins and Hydrodynamic Structures	5%	10%	10%	Dry Detention Ponds are depressions or basins created by excavation or berm construction that temporarily store runoff and release it slowly via surface flow or groundwater infiltration following storms. Hydrodynamic Structures are devices designed to improve quality of stormwater using features such as swirl concentrators, grit chambers, oil barriers, baffles, micropools, and absorbent pads that are designed to remove sediments, nutrients, metals, organic chemicals, or oil and grease from urban runoff.
Dry Extended Detention Basins	20%	20%	60%	Dry extended detention (ED) basins are depressions created by excavation or berm construction that temporarily store runoff and release it slowly via surface flow or groundwater infiltration following storms. Dry ED basins are designed to dry out between storm events, in contrast with wet ponds, which contain standing water permanently. As such, they are similar in construction and function to dry detention basins, except that the duration of detention of stormwater is designed to be longer, theoretically improving treatment effectiveness.

BMP Name	BMP Effectiveness Values			BMP Description
	TN	TP	Sediment	
Infiltration Practices w/ Sand, Veg.	85%	85%	95%	A depression to form an infiltration basin where sediment is trapped and water infiltrates the soil. No underdrains are associated with infiltration basins and trenches, because by definition these systems provide complete infiltration. Design specifications require infiltration basins and trenches to be built in good soil, they are not constructed on poor soils, such as C and D soil types. Engineers are required to test the soil before approval to build is issued. To receive credit over the longer term, jurisdictions must conduct yearly inspections to determine if the basin or trench is still infiltrating runoff.
Filtering Practices	40%	60%	80%	Practices that capture and temporarily store runoff and pass it through a filter bed of either sand or an organic media. There are various sand filter designs, such as above ground, below ground, perimeter, etc. An organic media filter uses another medium besides sand to enhance pollutant removal for many compounds due to the increased cation exchange capacity achieved by increasing the organic matter. These systems require yearly inspection and maintenance to receive pollutant reduction credit.
Filter Strip Runoff Reduction	20%	54%	56%	Urban filter strips are stable areas with vegetated cover on flat or gently sloping land. Runoff entering the filter strip must be in the form of sheet-flow and must enter at a non-erosive rate for the site-specific soil conditions. A 0.4 design ratio of filter strip length to impervious flow length is recommended for runoff reduction urban filter strips.
Filter Strip Stormwater Treatment	0%	0%	22%	Urban filter strips are stable areas with vegetated cover on flat or gently sloping land. Runoff entering the filter strip must be in the form of sheet-flow and must enter at a non-erosive rate for the site-specific soil conditions. A 0.2 design ratio of filter strip length to impervious flow length is recommended for stormwater treatment urban filter strips.
Bioretention – Raingarden (C/D soils w/ underdrain)	25%	45%	55%	An excavated pit backfilled with engineered media, topsoil, mulch, and vegetation. These are planting areas installed in shallow basins in which the storm water runoff is temporarily ponded and then treated by filtering through the bed components, and through biological and biochemical reactions within the soil matrix and around the root zones of the plants. This BMP has an underdrain and is in C or D soil.
Bioretention / Raingarden (A/B soils w/ underdrain)	70%	75%	80%	An excavated pit backfilled with engineered media, topsoil, mulch, and vegetation. These are planting areas installed in shallow basins in which the storm water runoff is temporarily ponded and then treated by filtering through the bed components, and through biological and biochemical reactions within the soil matrix and around the root zones of the plants. This BMP has an underdrain and is in A or B soil.

BMP Name	BMP Effectiveness Values			BMP Description
	TN	TP	Sediment	
Bioretention / Raingarden (A/B soils w/o underdrain)	80%	85%	90%	An excavated pit backfilled with engineered media, topsoil, mulch, and vegetation. These are planting areas installed in shallow basins in which the storm water runoff is temporarily ponded and then treated by filtering through the bed components, and through biological and biochemical reactions within the soil matrix and around the root zones of the plants. This BMP has no underdrain and is in A or B soil.
Vegetated Open Channels (C/D Soils)	10%	10%	50%	Open channels are practices that convey stormwater runoff and provide treatment as the water is conveyed, includes bioswales. Runoff passes through either vegetation in the channel, subsoil matrix, and/or is infiltrated into the underlying soils. This BMP has no underdrain and is in C or D soil.
Vegetated Open Channels (A/B Soils)	45%	45%	70%	Open channels are practices that convey stormwater runoff and provide treatment as the water is conveyed, includes bioswales. Runoff passes through either vegetation in the channel, subsoil matrix, and/or is infiltrated into the underlying soils. This BMP has no underdrain and is in A or B soil.
Bioswale	70%	75%	80%	With a bioswale, the load is reduced because, unlike other open channel designs, there is now treatment through the soil. A bioswale is designed to function as a bioretention area.
Permeable Pavement w/o Sand or Veg. (C/D Soils w/ underdrain)	10%	20%	55%	Pavement or pavers that reduce runoff volume and treat water quality through both infiltration and filtration mechanisms. Water filters through open voids in the pavement surface to a washed gravel subsurface storage reservoir, where it is then slowly infiltrated into the underlying soils or exits via an underdrain. This BMP has an underdrain, no sand or vegetation and is in C or D soil.
Permeable Pavement w/o Sand or Veg. (A/B Soils w/ underdrain)	45%	50%	70%	Pavement or pavers that reduce runoff volume and treat water quality through both infiltration and filtration mechanisms. Water filters through open voids in the pavement surface to a washed gravel subsurface storage reservoir, where it is then slowly infiltrated into the underlying soils or exits via an underdrain. This BMP has an underdrain, no sand or vegetation and is in A or B soil.
Permeable Pavement w/o Sand or Veg. (A/B Soils w/o underdrain)	75%	80%	85%	Pavement or pavers that reduce runoff volume and treat water quality through both infiltration and filtration mechanisms. Water filters through open voids in the pavement surface to a washed gravel subsurface storage reservoir, where it is then slowly infiltrated into the underlying soils or exits via an underdrain. This BMP has no underdrain, no sand or vegetation and is in A or B soil.
Permeable Pavement w/ Sand or Veg. (A/B Soils w/ underdrain)	50%	50%	70%	Pavement or pavers that reduce runoff volume and treat water quality through both infiltration and filtration mechanisms. Water filters through open voids in the pavement surface to a washed gravel subsurface storage reservoir, where it is then slowly infiltrated into the underlying soils or exits via an underdrain. This BMP has an underdrain, has sand and/or vegetation and is in A or B soil.

BMP Name	BMP Effectiveness Values			BMP Description
	TN	TP	Sediment	
Permeable Pavement w/ Sand or Veg. (A/B Soils w/o underdrain)	80%	80%	85%	Pavement or pavers that reduce runoff volume and treat water quality through both infiltration and filtration mechanisms. Water filters through open voids in the pavement surface to a washed gravel subsurface storage reservoir, where it is then slowly infiltrated into the underlying soils or exits via an underdrain. This BMP has no underdrain, has sand and/or vegetation and is in A or B soil.
Permeable Pavement w/ Sand or Veg. (C/D Soils w/ underdrain)	20%	20%	55%	Pavement or pavers that reduce runoff volume and treat water quality through both infiltration and filtration mechanisms. Water filters through open voids in the pavement surface to a washed gravel subsurface storage reservoir, where it is then slowly infiltrated into the underlying soils or exits via an underdrain. This BMP has an underdrain, has sand and/or vegetation and is in C or D soil.
Stream Restoration	0.075 lbs/ft/yr	0.068 lbs/ft/yr	44.88 lbs/ft/yr	An annual mass nutrient and sediment reduction credit for qualifying stream restoration practices that prevent channel or bank erosion that otherwise would be delivered downstream from an actively enlarging or incising urban stream. Applies to 0 to 3rd order streams that are not tidally influenced. If one of the protocols is cited and pounds are reported, then the mass reduction is received for the protocol.
Forest Buffers	25%	50%	50%	An area of trees at least 35 feet wide on one side of a stream, usually accompanied by trees, shrubs and other vegetation that is adjacent to a body of water. The riparian area is managed to maintain the integrity of stream channels and shorelines, to reduce the impacts of upland sources of pollution by trapping, filtering, and converting sediments, nutrients, and other chemicals. Effectiveness credit for TN is for 4 upslope acres for each acre of buffer (4:1), and 2 upslope acres for TP and sediment (2:1). Additional credit is gained by converting land use from current use to forest. (Note – the values represent pollutant load reductions from stormwater draining through buffers).
Tree Planting	10%	15%	20%	The BMP effectiveness values for tree planting are estimated by DEP. DEP estimates that 100 fully mature trees of mixed species (both deciduous and non-deciduous) provide pollutant load reductions for the equivalent of one acre (i.e., one mature tree = 0.01 acre). The BMP effectiveness values given are based on immature trees (seedlings or saplings); the effectiveness values are expected to increase as the trees mature. To determine the amount of pollutant load reduction that can credited for tree planting efforts: 1) multiply the number of trees planted by 0.01; 2) multiply the acreage determined in step 1 by the pollutant loading rate for the land prior to planting the trees (in lbs/acre/year); and 3) multiply the result of step 2 by the BMP effectiveness values given.
Street Sweeping	3%	3%	9%	Street sweeping must be conducted 25 times annually. Only count those streets that have been swept at least 25 times in a year. The acres associated with all streets that have been swept at least 25 times in a year would be eligible for pollutant reductions consistent with the given BMP effectiveness values.

BMP Name	BMP Effectiveness Values			BMP Description
	TN	TP	Sediment	
Storm Sewer System Solids Removal	0.0027 for sediment, 0.0111 for organic matter	0.0006 for sediment, 0.0012 for organic matter	1 – TN and TP concentrations	<p>This BMP (also referred to as “Storm Drain Cleaning”) involves the collection or capture and proper disposal of solid material within the storm system to prevent discharge to surface waters. Examples include catch basins, stormwater inlet filter bags, end of pipe or outlet solids removal systems and related practices. Credit is authorized for this BMP only when proper maintenance practices are observed (i.e., inspection and removal of solids as recommended by the system manufacturer or other available guidelines). The entity using this BMP for pollutant removal credits must demonstrate that they have developed and are implementing a standard operating procedure for tracking the material removed from the sewer system. Locating such BMPs should consider the potential for backups onto roadways or other areas that can produce safety hazards.</p> <p>To determine pollutant reductions for this BMP, these steps must be taken:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Measure the weight of solid/organic material collected (lbs). Sum the total weight of material collected for an annual period. Note – do not include refuse, debris and floatables in the determination of total mass collected.</li> <li>2) Convert the annual wet weight captured into annual dry weight (lbs) by using site-specific measurements (i.e., dry a sample of the wet material to find its weight) or by using default factors of 0.7 (material that is predominantly wet sediment) or 0.2 (material that is predominantly wet organic matter, e.g., leaf litter).</li> <li>3) Multiply the annual dry weight of material collected by default or site-specific pollutant concentration factors. The default concentrations are shown in the BMP Effectiveness Values columns. Alternatively, the material may be sampled (at least annually) to determine site-specific pollutant concentrations.</li> </ol> <p>DEP will allow up to 50% of total pollutant reduction requirements to be met through this BMP. The drainage area treated by this BMP may be no greater than 0.5 acre unless it can be demonstrated that the specific system proposed is capable of treating stormwater from larger drainage areas. For planning purposes, the sediment removal efficiency specified by the manufacturer may be assumed, but no higher than 80%.</p>