STD & SPEC 3.08

CULVERT INLET PROTECTION

Definition

A sediment filter located at the inlet to storm sewer culverts.

Purposes

1. To prevent sediment from entering, accumulating in and being transferred by a culvert and associated drainage system prior to permanent stabilization of a disturbed project area.

2. To provide erosion control at culvert inlets during the phase of a project where elevation and drainage patterns change, causing original control measures to be ineffective or in need of removal.
Conditions Where Practice Applies

Where culvert and associated drainage system is to be made operational prior to permanent stabilization of the disturbed drainage area. Different types of structures are applicable to different conditions (see Plates 3.08-1 and 3.08-2).

Planning Considerations

When construction on a project reaches a stage where culverts and other storm sewer appurtenances are installed and many areas are brought to a desired grade, the erosion control measures used in the early stages normally need to be modified or may need to be removed altogether. At that time, there is a need to provide protection at the points where runoff will leave the area via culverts and drop or curb inlets.

Similar to drop and curb inlets, culverts which are made operational prior to stabilization of the associated drainage areas can convey large amounts of sediment to natural drainageways. In case of extreme sediment loading, the pipe or pipe system itself may clog and lose a major portion of its capacity. To avoid these problems, it is necessary to prevent sediment from entering the culvert by using one of the methods noted in this section.

General Guidelines (All Types)

1. The inlet protection device shall be constructed in a manner that will facilitate clean-out and disposal of trapped sediment and minimize interference with construction activities.

2. The inlet protection devices shall be constructed in such a manner that any resultant ponding of stormwater will not cause excessive inconvenience or damage to adjacent areas or structures.

3. Design criteria more specific to each particular inlet protection device will be found in Plates 3.08-1 through 3.08-2.

Design Criteria

1. Silt Fence Culvert Inlet Protection

   a. No formal design is required.

   b. Silt fence culvert inlet protection has an expected maximum usable life of three months.

   c. The maximum area draining to this practice shall not exceed one acre.
2. **Culvert Inlet Sediment Trap**
   
a. Runoff storage requirements shall be in accordance with information outlined under Std. & Spec. 3.13, TEMPORARY SEDIMENT TRAP.

b. Culvert inlet sediment traps have a maximum expected useful life of 18 months.

c. The maximum area draining to this practice shall not exceed 3 acres.

**Construction Specifications**

1. **Silt Fence Culvert Inlet Protection**
   
a. The height of the silt fence (in front of the culvert opening) shall be a minimum of 16 inches and shall not exceed 34 inches.

b. Extra strength filter fabric with a maximum spacing of stakes of 3 feet shall be used to construct the measure.

c. The placement of silt fence should be approximately 6 feet from the culvert in the direction of incoming flow, creating a "horseshoe" shape as shown in Plate 3.08-1.

d. If silt fence cannot be installed properly or the flow and/or velocity of flow to the culvert protection is excessive and may breach the structure, the stone combination noted in Plate 3.08-1 should be utilized.

2. **Culvert Inlet Sediment Trap**
   
a. Geometry of the design will be a "horseshoe" shape around the culvert inlet (see Plate 3.08-2).

b. The toe of riprap (composing the sediment filter dam) shall be no closer than 24" from the culvert opening in order to provide an acceptable emergency outlet for flows from larger storm events.

c. All other "Construction Specifications" found within Std. & Spec. 3.13, TEMPORARY SEDIMENT TRAP, also apply to this practice.

e. The proper installation of the culvert inlet sediment trap is a viable substitute for the installation of the TEMPORARY SEDIMENT TRAP.
SILT FENCE CULVERT INLET PROTECTION

TOE OF FILL

CULVERT

FLOW

ENDWALL

SILT FENCE

FLOW

* DISTANCE IS 6' MINIMUM IF FLOW IS TOWARD EMBANKMENT

OPTIONAL STONE COMBINATION

CLASS I RIPRAP

1.0' 1.5' 2.5'

FLOW

** VDOT #3, #357 OR #5 COARSE AGGREGATE TO REPLACE SILT FENCE IN "HORSESHOE" WHEN HIGH VELOCITY OF FLOW IS EXPECTED

Source: Adapted from VDOT Standard Sheets and Va. DSWC

Plate 3.08-1
CULVERT INLET SEDIMENT TRAP

*STORAGE REQUIREMENTS EQUIVALENT TO THAT OF TEMPORARY SEDIMENT TRAP, STD. & SPEC. 3.13

67 C.Y./ACRE WET STORAGE (BELLOW BASE OF STONE)

67 C.Y./ACRE DRY STORAGE (BASE OF STONE TO TOP OF STONE BERM)

AREAS TO BE DISTURBED (CUT, FILLED, ETC.)

PIECE INVERT

RIPRAP HEADWALL

NATURAL GROUND

CLASS I RIPRAP

VDOT #3, #357, OR #5 COARSE AGGREGATE

MAX. SEDIMENT DEPTH (CLEAN OUT POINT) AT 1/2 VOLUME OF WET STORAGE AREA

Source: North Carolina Sediment Control Commission

Plate 3.08-2

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Maintenance

1. The structure shall be inspected after each rain and repairs made as needed.

2. Aggregate shall be replaced or cleaned when inspection reveals that clogged voids are causing ponding problems which interfere with on-site construction.

3. Sediment shall be removed and the impoundment restored to its original dimensions when sediment has accumulated to one-half the design depth. Removed sediment shall be deposited in a suitable area and in such a manner that it will not erode and cause sedimentation problems.

4. Temporary structures shall be removed when they have served their useful purpose, but not before the upslope area has been permanently stabilized.