



Low Impact Development

Downspout Dispersion and Sheet Flow Dispersion feasibility

Using low impact development techniques are strongly encouraged and in certain areas of the county, low impact development (LID) is required. Listed below are common feasibility criteria that must be considered when using LID measures such as those found in the Low Impact Development Technical Guidance Manual for Puget Sound: http://www.psp.wa.gov/downloads/LID/LID_manual2005.pdf Refer to the Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington (SMMWW) for complete technical feasibility criteria along with design information at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/manual.html>

The following criteria can be cited as reasons for a finding of infeasibility for downspout dispersion (splash blocks or pads) without further justification (though some require professional services to make the observation):

- Within an area designated as an erosion hazard, or landslide hazard.
- Within 50 feet from the top of slopes that are greater than 20%.
- For properties with known soil or ground water contamination (typically federal Superfund sites or state cleanup sites under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)):
 - a) Within 100 feet of an area known to have deep soil contamination;
 - b) Where ground water modeling indicates infiltration will likely increase or change the direction of the migration of pollutants in the ground water;
 - c) Wherever surface soils have been found to be contaminated unless those soils are removed within 10 horizontal feet from the infiltration area;
 - d) Any area where these facilities are prohibited by an approved cleanup plan under the state Model Toxics Control Act or Federal Superfund Law, or an environmental covenant under Chapter 64.70 RCW.
- Within 100 feet of a closed or active landfill.
- Within 100 feet of a drinking water well, or a spring used for drinking water supply, if the pavement is a pollution-generating surface.
- Within 10 feet of a small on-site sewage disposal drainfield, including reserve areas and grey water reuse systems. For setbacks from a “large on-site sewage disposal system”, see Chapter 246-272B WAC.
- Within 10 feet of any underground storage tank and connecting underground pipes, regardless of tank size. As used in these criteria, an underground storage tank means any tank used to store petroleum products, chemicals or liquid hazardous wastes of which 10% or more of the storage volume (including volume in the connecting piping system) is beneath the ground surface.

Citation of any of the following infeasibility criteria for downspout dispersion (splash blocks or pads) must be based on an evaluation of site-specific conditions and a written recommendation from an appropriate licensed professional (e.g., engineer, geologist, or hydrogeologist):

- Where professional geotechnical evaluation recommends infiltration not be used due to reasonable concerns about erosion, slope failure, or down gradient flooding.
- Within an area whose ground water drains into an erosion hazard, or landslide hazard area.

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The following criteria can be cited as reasons for a finding of infeasibility for sheetflow dispersion without further justification (though some require professional services to make the observation):

- Within an area designated as an erosion hazard, or landslide hazard.
- Within 50 feet from the top of slopes that are greater than 20%.
- For properties with known soil or ground water contamination (typically federal Superfund sites or state cleanup sites under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)):
 - a) Within 100 feet of an area known to have deep soil contamination;
 - b) Where ground water modeling indicates infiltration will likely increase or change the direction of the migration of pollutants in the ground water;
 - c) Wherever surface soils have been found to be contaminated unless those soils are removed within 10 horizontal feet from the infiltration area;
 - d) Any area where these facilities are prohibited by an approved cleanup plan under the state Model Toxics Control Act or Federal Superfund Law, or an environmental covenant under Chapter 64.70 RCW.
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Citation of any of the following infeasibility criteria for sheetflow dispersion must be based on an evaluation of site-specific conditions and a written recommendation from an appropriate licensed professional (e.g., engineer, geologist, or hydrogeologist):

- Where professional geotechnical evaluation recommends sheetflow dispersion should not be used due to reasonable concerns about erosion, slope failure, or down gradient flooding.
- Within an area whose ground water drains into an erosion hazard, or landslide hazard area.
- Where infiltrating and ponded water below new permeable pavement area would compromise adjacent impervious pavements.