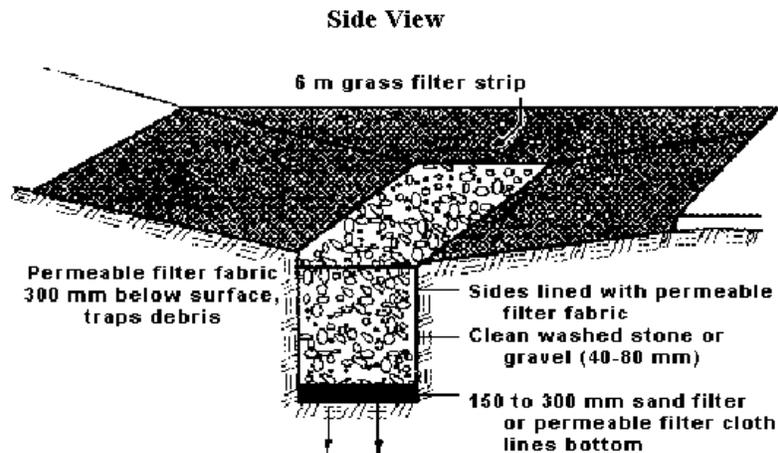


## Infiltration Trench



Infiltration trenches are designed to collect and filter rainwater. When water is collected in an infiltration trench, the water is allowed to permeate into the soil rather than flowing directly into the water system. Infiltration trenches are excavated trenches that range from 3 to 12 feet deep. The trenches are backfilled with stone aggregate and lined with filter fabric. Research has shown that infiltration trenches can remove up to 90 percent of sediments, metals, coliform bacteria, and organic matter. Up to 60 percent of phosphorus and nitrogen, and 70-80 percent of biochemical oxygen demand can be removed by infiltration trenches.

Infiltration trenches function in cold weather only when surface icing is avoided. Installation of infiltration trenches should be in areas where levels of sediments and hydrocarbons (grease and oil) in runoff are low. When sediment levels are high, infiltration trenches can become clogged and stop functioning properly. Before installing an infiltration trench, be sure that the groundwater will not become contaminated. Do not install a trench where hazardous materials or chemicals are stored.

### Where To Get Help for infiltration trench information

- Environmental Protection Agency, Infiltration Trenches;  
(Search <https://nepis.epa.gov> site for “Storm Water Technology Fact Sheet Infiltration Trench” )
- Infiltration Trench; [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/deq-wb-nps-it\\_250882\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/deq-wb-nps-it_250882_7.pdf)