

# Spokane County Contractors Swale

## FIELD GUIDE

### COUNTY RESIDENTIAL SWALE REQUIREMENTS

#### PRE-CONSTRUCTION

- ❖ For lot site plan showing required placement, dimensions, and area of the swale and drainage easement, contact County Stormwater Technician.

#### CONSTRUCTION

- ❖ Swale bottom should be level (i.e. not sloping) to ensure stormwater is evenly distributed for proper treatment.
- ❖ Side slopes should be 3:1 unless otherwise specified.
- ❖ Sod or grass seed only in floor area—no rock or plants in floor of the swale.
- ❖ If rock/keystone wall is placed on side slopes, grass must extend 6" up side slopes before wall begins.
- ❖ Completed floor elevation (after sod placement) must be at least 6" below top of the drywell grate.
- ❖ Sod must be 2" below end of the concrete curb cut/apron to allow unobstructed flow into swale.
- ❖ Construct swale to ensure water does not flow directly from the inlet into the drywell.

#### POST-CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION

- ❖ Once sod is established, swale must pass a flood test and completely drain preferably within 24 to 48 hours, or within 72 hours maximum.
- ❖ Swale must be constructed and pass inspection within approximately 6 months of final building inspection.

Public Works/Water and Environment Programs  
1026 W. Broadway Avenue  
Spokane, WA 99260  
.....  
Phone: 509.477.7166  
FAX: 509.477.7478  
E-mail: ssaunders@spokanecounty.org  
[www.spokanecounty.org/Stormwater](http://www.spokanecounty.org/Stormwater)



### TECHNIQUES TO INCREASE SWALE FUNCTION

#### DURING CONSTRUCTION

- ❖ Protect the swale area from receiving sediment-laden runoff during construction by placing barriers such as sand bags or straw wattles at the inlets.
- ❖ Protect drywells and catch basins from sediment by installing filter fabric under the grates.
- ❖ Do not drive in swales or compact the floor area.
- ❖ Do not use the swale as a clean-out area for any construction materials such as concrete, masonry, plaster, paint, or texture.

#### SOILS

- ❖ Evaluate on-site soils for drainage. Avoid layering top soil to prevent a subsurface that prohibits infiltration.
- ❖ Top soil should consist of course sandy loam mixed with 2" of organic matter for every 6" of top soil.
- ❖ Top soil should be tilled into existing base soil to a depth of at least 4" to prevent layering and increase infiltration capacity.

#### IRRIGATION

- ❖ Use proper irrigation installation for the site: For optimum efficiency, connect the swale area irrigation to its own control device, separate from the lawn sprinkler system.



### Questions

Call the Spokane County Stormwater Technician  
509.477.7166

