



Dripline Trenches

Controlling Stormwater Runoff

Lake friendly living
means using lakeshore
BEST MANAGEMENT
PRACTICES

BMP

Dripline Trenches: Acceptable best management practice for addressing stormwater runoff from impervious surface under the Shoreland Protection Act (Chapter 49A of Title 10, § 1441 et seq.).

LAKE BENEFITS

Dripline trenches control stormwater runoff from impervious surface by guiding and filtering water vertically into stones and then soil. This benefits the lake by reducing surface runoff and transport of sediment into the lake.

MATERIALS

Crushed stone can be purchased at your local gravel pit. Other geotextiles, including landscaping weed barrier, can be substituted for smaller projects. These landscaping materials are typically available at garden centers.


Description: A form of infiltration trench for structures without gutters located below driplines where water flows or drips during rain events.

Purpose: Dripline trenches collect and infiltrate roof runoff. These systems also minimize wear on your house by reducing back splash.

How to:

1. Dig a trench that is a minimum of 18" wide and 8" deep along the drip line and appropriately located to consider foundation drainage and the potential for foundation inundation. Make sure to dispose of the soil in a flat area where it cannot be washed into the lake.
2. Fill the trench with ½" -1½" crushed stone. The front and sides of the trench may be edged with stone or with pressure-treated lumber to hold the stones in place. Extend the life of the dripline trench by lining the sides with non-woven geotextile fabric and filling to within 3" of the ground level with stone.
3. Fold a flap of non-woven geotextile fabric over the top of the trench and top off with additional stone.

Note: Dripline trenches work best in sand and gravel that can quickly dispense a large volume of water. They should not be used with improperly sealed foundations, as flooding may result.

Maintenance:  Periodically remove accumulated debris and weeds from the surface. Trenches lined with non-woven geotextile fabric will require less frequent maintenance. They still may clog over time and the stone will need to be removed and washed to clean out the accumulated sediment and debris.

