

Inlet Restrictors

Help Protect Your Watershed

Inlet restrictors are flow regulation devices attached to catch basin outlets. Restrictors reduce the rate of flow that would otherwise flow through the sewer system. As a result, the runoff “backs up” in the system, usually on the street or parking lot.

Restrictors are best used in combination with street level storage devices such as curbs or berms. Berms are low structures constructed across a street from curb to curb that temporarily impound water on the upstream side.

The location of inlet restrictors is carefully planned by local governments to ensure that public health and safety are not compromised. They are best used in areas where streets have flat grades and low traffic.

A variation on the use of inlet restrictors is to entirely block off catch basin inlets and route the flow via overland paths to a suitable discharge point such as open channel or more optimal locations within the combined sewer system.

**12 million
gallons/year**

The estimated amount of rainwater kept of the sewer on an annual basis when 30 catch basins have inlet restrictors
- Portland, ME

Advantages of Inlet Restrictors

- Reduces peak discharges
- Cost-effective
- Can reduce incidence of basement flooding
- Berms provide traffic calming benefit



Case Study

Skokie and Wilmette, IL have implemented berms and flow restrictors over 8.6 and 2 square miles of town, respectively. The City of Chicago has installed over 200,000 flow restrictors and reports that basement flooding complaints and property damage claims were more than cut in half comparing similar extreme rainfall events before and after installation.

Costs

Skokie spent approximately \$6 million on berms and restrictors or about \$1,100 per acre served. Chicago spent \$75 million on their installation of over 200,000 restrictors at a cost of \$375 per restrictor.

If you would like more information, please check our web site at: www.mmsd.com or call 414-272-5100



*In cooperation with the
2020 Facilities Plan*



MILWAUKEE METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT