

Sediment Traps for Rain Gardens

Why a Sediment Trap?

Installing a sediment trap at the curb cut is an easy way to collect most of the dirt and debris that enters your garden. If not collected, this debris will clog up the stone channel and prevent water from soaking into the ground.

Material List:

1. 8 stone block, 12x8x4"
2. 2 stone pavers, 12x12x1.5"
3. Erosion fabric, about 3 square feet and "staples"

Installing a Sediment Trap:

1. Remove rock from around curb opening.
2. Dig a hole, approximately 26" into the garden by 34" wide and 12" deep.
3. Line the area with weed barrier.
4. Place eight 12x8x4" stone blocks and two 12" square pavers in the arrangement as shown in the top photo, over the weed barrier fabric. (The stone and pavers can be purchased at local hardware stores or garden centers.)
5. Center the stone at the curb cut to make sure all the water entering the cut will go into the sediment trap.
6. Small spaces/cracks between the stone are good to allow for water to drain.
7. The stone should be level so water will flow out evenly.
8. The top of the stone should be lower than the curb cut opening.
9. Place some larger rock around the stone to help keep it in place and then add the removed rock around the sediment trap as seen in the center photo.

Maintenance

Your sediment trap will fill up quickly as in the lower photo. Clean it out frequently by scooping out the dirt and throwing it away. Do NOT put in back on the street! It should only take a few minutes each time.

