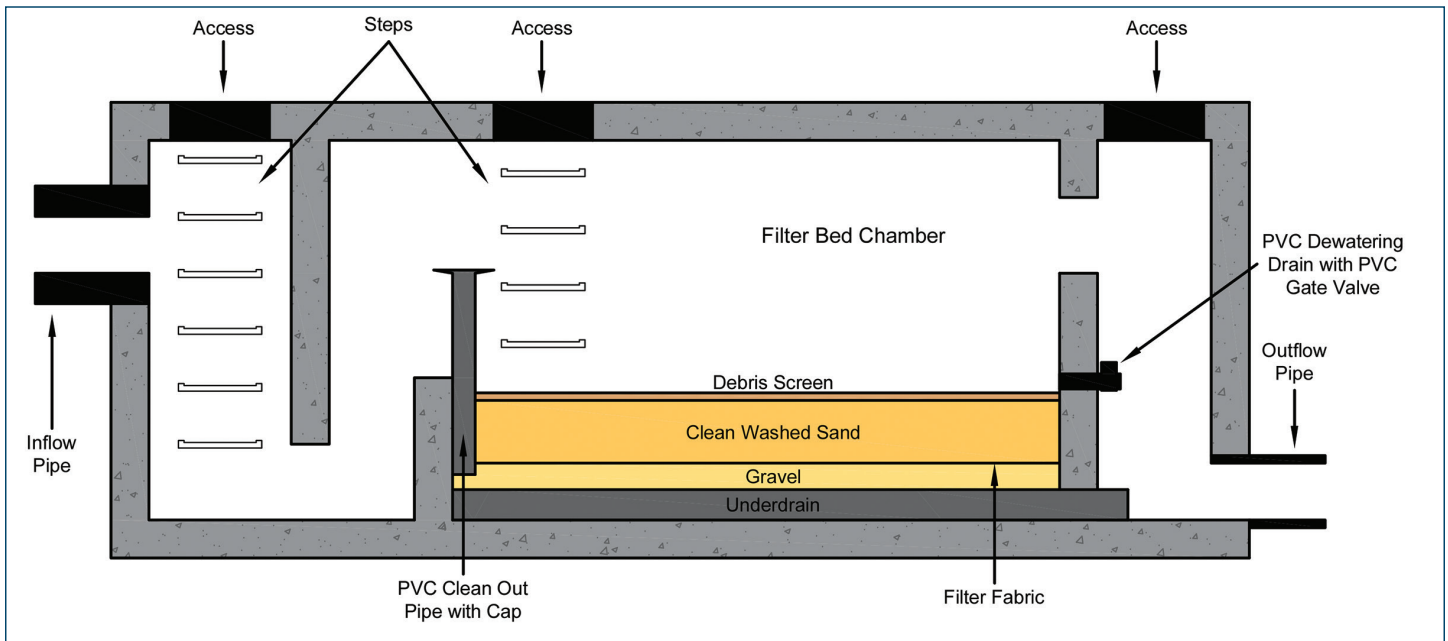


Precast Concrete Stormwater Treatment

Sand Filters

A typical sand filter system consists of two or three chambers or basins. The first is the sedimentation chamber, which removes floatables and heavy sediments. The second is the filtration chamber, which removes additional pollutants by filtering the runoff through a sand bed. The third is the discharge chamber. Normally the treated filtrate is then

discharged through an underdrain system either to a storm drainage system or directly to surface waters. Sand filters take up little space and can be used on highly developed sites and sites with steep slopes. These devices are considered to have relatively high pollutant removal capabilities, especially for sediment and associated pollutants.



The Precast Concrete Advantage

- Design flexibility of concrete structures allows site-specific solutions for the engineer
- Filter media can easily be preinstalled in many applications
- Concrete structures provide greater long-term durability
- Concrete's buoyancy resistance is a plus as sand filters are common where the water table is high

NPCA's Precast Concrete Producers

Precast concrete manufacturers that are members of the National Precast Concrete Association follow the guidelines of the NPCA Quality Control Manual for Precast Concrete Plants. The manual thoroughly documents the best practices and international standards for quality precast concrete production.

*To learn more about NPCA, please visit **precast.org**.*

Visit precast.org/find for more information or to find a local producer

Precast Concrete Sand Filters

Precast concrete stormwater treatment systems have many advantages over competing materials:



Strong & Durable

Precast concrete is strong from the start, and its strength actually increases over time. Other materials can deteriorate, experience creep and stress relaxation, lose strength and/or deflect over time. The load-carrying capacity of precast concrete is derived from its own structural qualities and does not rely on the strength or quality of the surrounding backfill materials. Studies have shown that precast concrete products can provide a service life in excess of 100 years. In severe conditions, additional design options are available to extend the life of precast concrete products.

Quality Controlled

Because precast concrete products typically are manufactured in a controlled plant environment, they exhibit high quality and uniformity. Problems affecting quality typically found on a job site – temperature, curing conditions, poor craftsmanship and material quality – are nearly eliminated in a plant environment. Precast concrete products, when installed with high-quality sealants, offer a superior solution to watertightness requirements. Standard watertight sealants are specially formulated to adhere to precast concrete, making watertight multiple-seam precast concrete structures possible.

Easily Installed

Setting precast concrete structures into place is easier because they do not require special rigging (such as fabric slings) to avoid structural damage. Other materials such as fiberglass can suffer structural damage during compaction. In contrast, precast concrete is less susceptible to vibratory damage while the surrounding soil is backfilled. Consequently, backfilling operations can usually proceed much faster around precast concrete structures.

Precast concrete increases efficiency because weather will not delay production. In addition, weather conditions at the job site do not significantly affect the schedule.

Environmentally Friendly

Besides water, concrete is the most used material on earth. It is nontoxic and environmentally safe. When environmental laws heighten, especially those that prohibit pollutant discharge into rivers and lakes, precast concrete is additionally beneficial because it is made from natural materials. Precast concrete products are buried throughout the world as part of the stormwater treatment systems of nearly every modern city but do not themselves contribute to poor water quality.

Precast concrete is the material of choice for products used in stormwater treatment systems. Precast structures are modular, can fit any design situation, and are ready to install immediately upon arrival at the job site.

Buoyancy Resistant

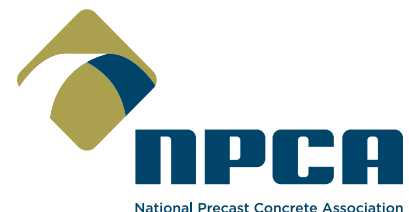
With a specific gravity of 2.40, precast concrete structures resist the buoyant forces associated with underground construction. In comparison, fiberglass has a specific gravity of 1.86, and high-density polyethylene (HDPE) has a specific gravity of 0.97.

Corrosion Resistant

Precast concrete is resistant to most corrosive substances. While no material is completely immune to chemical attack, the mix designs used to produce precast concrete are designed to withstand anticipated corrosive agents. Materials such as steel and other metals quickly deteriorate in the presence of corrosive agents, some in the presence of water alone.

Low Maintenance

Inspection is recommended at least quarterly and after a large rain event. However, frequency of cleanings and inspections will vary due to site conditions, storage capacity, manufacturer recommendations, and applicable local regulations. Consistent inspection and maintenance should be a part of standard operating procedures.



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