



In order to reduce the long-term impact of your home on your downstream neighbors, a **MODIFIED FRENCH DRAIN** was installed when your home was constructed.

### What is a Modified French Drain?

A modified French drain is a shallow trench filled with stone that is designed to intercept and temporarily store stormwater runoff so that the water has time to absorb into the underlying soil.



### How does it work?

A Modified French Drain receives water via a pipe, typically directly from a gutter system, or routed from a small surface inlet in a driveway, sidewalk, or yard. The pipe enters the stone trench underground, where perforations in the buried pipe disperse the water into the void spaces between the stone, where water is temporarily stored until it absorbs into the soil. It is normally covered with topsoil and managed turf but may have other small non-woody vegetation or pea gravel covering it. Any runoff that is absorbed into the soil helps to recharge groundwater and the soil acts like a filter, removing impurities and contaminants from water. This means more water in wells and streams that can better support large populations of fish and wildlife.

### Maintenance of a Modified French Drain is the responsibility of the property owner. How should it be maintained?

- Any gutter contributing to a Modified French Drain should be screened or have some form of a gutter guard to reduce the chance of clogging.
- Even when protected, gutters should be routinely inspected and cleaned out.
- Clean intermediate sump boxes, replace filters, and otherwise clean pretreatment areas in directly connected systems. At a minimum, cleaning should occur quarterly.
- Routinely examine to ensure that inlet and outlet devices are free of debris/blockages.
- After storm events, evaluate the drain-down time of the subsurface infiltration system to ensure a drain-down time of 72 hours or less. This can be done by looking in the clean-out, which will be a 3-4" pipe sticking up out of the Modified French Drain.

**The continued maintenance of your Modified French Drain is your responsibility in order to reduce environmental impacts and to protect those downstream.**

**Please refer to Greenville County Land Development for more information.**