Filter fabric, when placed as shown, will reduce the total amount of labor but requires more frequent inspections. The permeable barrier allows infiltration systems to collect storm water runoff without filling the entire system with sediment.

It is best to inspect BMPs in the spring, fall, and after a heavy rain event. An easy test is to run a garden hose for 10 minutes and monitor the flow. If the water overflows the BMP during the test, it is time to clean the system. Follow the steps below.

1. Remove pine needles and leaves regularly. They decay and clog the system. A pressure washer or hose with a high pressure nozzle aimed at a low angle works well.

2. When needed, remove and sift the top rock layer. This job can be made easier by carefully pulling the filter fabric to the side onto a tarp.

3. Dispose of the collected sediment in a location that will not be washed away in future storms. Good locations are planting beds, or under a layer of pine needle duff.

4. Take care not to let the sediment fall into the clean filter fabric below. Restore the fabric by running water in the opposite direction than it was installed. Replace fabric when required. Cut new fabric to fit and allow 12" for overlap.

5. Place the cleaned rock on the new or restored fabric.