



# FocalPoint

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## BIOFILTRATION SYSTEMS

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High Performance Modular Biofiltration System (HPMBS)  
Installation Guide



## Summary

FocalPoint High Performance Modular Biofiltration System (HPMBS) is a scalable biofiltration system which combines the efficiency of high flow rate engineered soils with the durability and modularity of an open cell underdrain/storage/infiltration system.

The following contents of this Installation Guide are the necessary steps required for FocalPoint HPMBS installation, and activation. In this guide you'll find detailed chapters with corresponding photos for each step, to improve ease of installation and your profitability on the project. You'll be advised about specific steps which require extra attention.

***ALL STEPS MUST BE COMPLETED IN THE ORDER OUTLINED TO ENSURE A SUCCESSFUL FOCALPOINT INSTALLATION AND ACTIVATION.***

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## General Notes

Be sure to contact your local Convergent Water Technologies Value Added Reseller (VAR) at least two weeks prior to installation. We will provide you with onsite installation support AT NO CHARGE in order to facilitate a successful installation.

All pictures, illustrations and instructions have been included to guide you through a typical installation. The approved engineering drawing should ALWAYS take precedence over these instructions.

It is advised that the FocalPoint HPMBS be installed after site stabilization, or when other landscaping is being done. The components of the FocalPoint system include an engineered, high-flow media that must be protected from site erosion and sediment. The easiest way to prevent this is to not install it until the final phase of construction.

However, if it is necessary that the system be installed prior to final stabilization, this guide provides instructions for our 'cap & seal' procedure that will protect the integrity of the system until activation is deemed appropriate (i.e., after the site is at least 90% stabilized). Failure to adequately protect the system will result in premature contamination and possible system failure.

Throughout this document you will see three types of notes:

**TIP:** Ideas to improve your efficiency and profitability on the installation

**IMPORTANT:** Steps that require extra attention

**WARNING:** Critical issues that **MUST** be handled correctly to ensure a successful installation



## Pre-Construction Checklist

### TOOLS YOU WILL NEED:

- Laser or Transit
- Measuring Tape (Long enough to mark FocalPoint HPMBS footprint)
- Razor Knife
- Screw Driver / Nut Driver Set
- String Line
- Marking Paint
- Reciprocating Saw (To cut Inspection & Maintenance Port and Receiving Holes)
- Dead Blow Mallet
- Worktable (3/4" plywood placed on saw horses works well)
- Hog Ring Gun and Rings for Gabion (if specified)
- Level
- Torch (etc) to "weld" geotextile for 'cap & seal' step

### MATERIALS YOU WILL NEED:

- Modular Underdrain Panels
- 8oz Non-Woven Geotextile to line excavation
- Microgrid Mesh
- Washed Bridging Stone (Typically 3/8" - 1/2" pea gravel)
- High Flow Biofiltration Media
- Base Material (95% compactable angular stone (1/2" – 1 1/2") or coarse sand
- Pipe Boot Kits (If not using kits, you will need duct tape and a stainless steel band clamp for each inlet and outlet pipe, and for each inspection or maintenance port.)
- Pipe for Inspection and Maintenance Ports (Typically 6" or 12" SCH 40 PVC)
- Pipe Cap & Serialized FocalPoint Identification Cover
- Gabion basket(s) or other energy dissipation device (If Specified)
- Rock (For Gabions or Flow Dissipation, if Specified)
- Aged, Double Shredded Hardwood Bark Mulch, which has been screened to remove fines
- 10-33mm EPDM, or other impermeable material sized to cover the surface of the media bed, if the system will not be immediately activated.

### EQUIPMENT YOU WILL NEED:

- Forklift and other equipment/tools needed to unload box truck
- Walk behind trench roller (plate compactor may also work)

Note: This list does not include equipment or tools needed to excavate or level the floor of the excavation



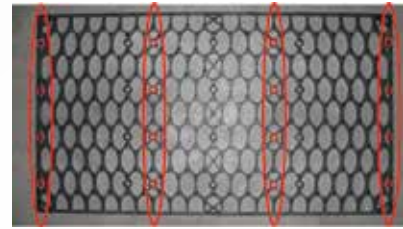


# 1

## ASSEMBLE MODULAR UNDERDRAIN

If Modular Underdrain units arrive on your project in flat panels they will need to be assembled on-site. Assembling the units should take 2-3 minutes per module. This is a conservative estimate used to approximate the total man hours needed for assembly. The estimate includes the workers doing the assembly as well as material handling people to keep the assembly workers moving.

Figure 1: Attach small plates at locations marked in red. The holes to be used for the middle panels are centered on an "X"



Unit	Mini	Single	Double	Triple	Quadruple	Penta
Time	2-3 minutes	2-3 minutes	4-6 minutes	6-9 minutes	8-12 minutes	10-15 minutes

*Assembly Instructions – following the drawings in Fig. 2: Connect four small panels (B) into one large panel (A) using the short pegs (not the long pegs). Attach small panels onto the large panel at the locations marked in red on Fig. 1. Do NOT use the row of pin holes directly in the center or the two interior rows nearest the edges, as marked in red on Fig. 1.*

Next, working from one end to the other, attach a second large plate (A) on the opposite side of the first.

Once the top and bottom large plates are attached, two more side plates (A) are attached to complete the sides of the Modular Underdrain unit. The picture in figure 2 shows is a SINGLE MINI Modular Underdrain. A single modular underdrain unit will be assembled in the same manner.

To build a DOUBLE unit (or larger), follow the directions above, starting at "Assembly Instructions:" using the top of the existing unit as the large plate. Bottom of the next module.



Figure 2: Follow these steps to assemble the underdrain units



Figure 3: Assembling on site during excavation will increase speed once the excavation is completed

**TIP:** To increase the speed of the installation, many contractors choose to assemble the Modular Underdrain units prior to or during excavation (Step 2) and base preparation (Step 3) (Fig. 3). Other contractors wait until these steps are completed and then perform the assembly IN THE EXCAVATION allowing completed units to be placed into their final location as they are assembled. Consider which option will work best for your project.



## 2

### EXCAVATE

Excavate the designated area according to plans.

Typical excavations should include:

- One foot perimeter around underdrain modules to allow for proper compaction of backfill
- Enough depth to accommodate a minimum 3" base (if required) below the underdrain modules

Level the bottom of the excavation (Fig. 4) as shown on plans. Most excavations have a flat bottom while some will slightly slope toward the outlet pipe.



Figure 4: Excavation according to plans, following all governmental regulations

Prepare the subgrade according to plans. This could require compaction for stability or prohibit compaction to promote infiltration.

If the subgrade is pumping or appears excessively soft, the design engineer should be consulted for advice. In many cases a stabilization geotextile and 6" of compactable material that drains well will be sufficient to amend the bearing capacity of the soil.

## 3

### PREPARE BASE

Standing water in the excavation will prevent proper base preparation and must be removed, if present. In regions with sandy soils meeting the requirements noted and where the subgrade elevation is above the groundwater table, imported base materials may not be needed.

Base materials must be:

<b>Compaction</b>	95% Compaction (If infiltration is not a primary goal)
<b>Shape</b>	Angular
<b>Size</b>	Not larger than 1.5" in diameter
<b>Consistency</b>	Free of lumps, debris, and sharp objects that could cut geotextile
<b>Applicability</b>	Stone or coarse sand is acceptable if it meets requirements; In no case shall clays be used

Grade and level base as shown on plans.



**TIP:** Creating a smooth, level platform will allow for faster installation of Modular Underdrain, as units will fit together evenly, eliminating detail work that can delay your progress (Figure 5)

Figure 5: Base must be smooth to ensure units fit together without gaps



## 4

### PLACE GEOTEXTILE ENVELOPE

Geotextile will be required on all FocalPoint HPMBS installations to separate the surrounding in-situ soils from the FocalPoint System. Check your plans to ensure that geotextile is to line your entire excavation, or will only be placed on the sides (if infiltration is a primary goal).

Cut full-width strips of Geotextile to the proper length and place them over the base and up the sides of the excavation, covering the floor and beyond walls of the excavation. This will be important in fulfilling step 11.

**IMPORTANT:** Allow enough geotextile to wrap the top of the system. This will aid in protecting the system until the site is completely stabilized and ready for activation.

Geotextiles are flammable. No smoking should be permitted on the geotextile.

Adjacent panels of material should be overlapped by 12" or more, as shown on the plans (Fig. 6).

Use pins, staples, sandbags or other ballast to hold the geotextile in place, preventing it from blowing or sliding out of position.

**TIP:** A prefabricated geotextile envelopes are available for smaller systems. This helps cut down waste and speeds up the installation process (Fig.7)



Figure 6: Roll out geotextile cut to fit the excavation in order to keep in-situ soils from migrating into the FocalPoint System. Geotextile strips must be cut generously in order to cover entire excavation on completion of the installation.

## 5

### INSTALL MODULAR UNDERDRAIN

Determine the starting location. It is often helpful to use an inlet or outlet pipe to guide you. Using a string line, establish two adjacent edges of the Modular Underdrain footprint. Ensure that your corner is square. Mark these two edges with marking paint and remove the string line (Fig. 8).





# 5

## INSTALL MODULAR UNDERDRAIN continued

Begin placing Modular Underdrain in the corner of the marked area. Do NOT place units on their sides, as this will void the warranty. Check your plans to ensure correct orientation of the Modular Underdrain (Fig. 9).

Check the plans to ensure the Modular Underdrain is running in the correct direction (North/South vs. East/West) to match the footprint shown.

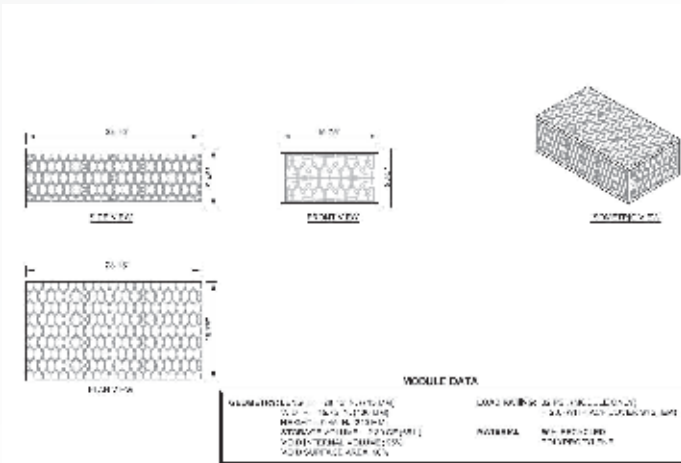


Figure 9: Make sure the tanks are oriented properly in the excavation.



Figure 8: Place modular underdrain in specified configuration within geotextile envelope.



Figure 9A: Minor Variations (less than width of top plate) in tank height are acceptable

Modular Underdrain units should fit together evenly. Minor gaps between units ( $< \frac{1}{2}$ " ) or variations in the height of the units ( $< \frac{1}{2}$ " ) are acceptable (Fig. 9A), but reasonable efforts should be made to minimize these variations. Minor gaps will be eliminated during compaction of side backfill material.

No lateral connections between adjacent underdrains modules are required.





## 6 INSTALL INSPECTION/MAINTENANCE PORTS

All ports should be made from pipe long enough to extend from the bottom of the Modular Underdrain to a point slightly above finished grade of the FocalPoint HPMBs. Taller is better, as the pipes can be trimmed on completion of the system installation. They are typically Schedule 40 PVC pipe, but can be formed from other types of pipe, as well.



Figure 11: 8" slots cut in to bottom of inspection port caps

Identify the location of all ports as specified on the approved drawings and remove the Underdrain Module(s) which will receive the port from each location.

Cut the pipe to length, leaving enough excess to trim the top when final grade is reached.

Cut several horizontal slots in the pipe starting at the bottom (Fig. 11). Slots should extend as high as the height of the lowest underdrain module being used. No perforations or slots should be visible above the top of the Modular Underdrain once the port is in place.

Using a reciprocating saw, cut the horizontal underdrain module plates in the center, between the two internal vertical plates, to receive the port (Fig. 12). Cut the openings for a tight fit around the port pipe. If the pipe specified will not fit between the two interior plates, one or both plates may be moved to the outer connection locations on the large plate. All horizontally oriented plates will need to be cut EXCEPT FOR THE BOTTOM PLATE. In total you will need to cut:

Unit	Cut
Mini & Single	1 plate
Double	2 plates
Triple	3 plates
Quadruple	4 plates
Penta	5 plates

**TIP:** If the location of the inspection ports is not shown on your plans, use a single inspection port located in the middle of the underdrain field. Install a port for every X sf of the underdrain system

**IMPORTANT:** Do not over-cut the Modular Underdrain plates. Minimize the gaps between the pipe and the Modular Underdrain plates. This is particularly important with the top plate.

For all units larger than a Single or Mini Underdrain Module, you will need to disassemble the Underdrain module in order to cut the interior horizontal plates. Reassemble the Underdrain Module when cutting is completed, and replace the Underdrain Module into the proper location.

**TIP:** If using Prefabricated Pipe Boot Kits, install them onto the pipe now, leaving the band clamps loose so that final adjustments may be made in Step 7.

### Install the pipe into the Underdrain Modules.

Place the port pipe with pre-cut slots into hole. (Fig. 13). Be sure to cut the top of the pipe so that once the FocalPoint HPMBs Inspection Port Cap is placed onto the top of the pipe, the top of the Inspection Port Cap will be flush with or just above the finished grade. Once the pipe is in place, put the FocalPoint inspection port Cap or a temporary cap on the port to prevent debris from entering the system during backfill procedures (Fig. 14).



Figure 12: Cut 6" Hole into top panel of underdrain module to accommodate 6" pipe



Figure 13: Place inspection port into underdrain module



Figure 14: Cut inspection port to appropriate height stated on plans. Seal the opening on top of the pipe with the FocalPoint Inspection Port Cap or temporary lid



## 7 INSTALL MICROGRID MESH

Clean off any debris that may be lying on top of the exposed geotextile around the perimeter of the Modular Underdrain.

Cut strips of Microgrid Mesh to fit over the top and down both sides of the modular underdrain system. Adjacent strips of Mesh should overlap at least 12" or as shown on plans. Use rock bags or other ballast to temporarily secure overlaps (Fig. 15).

Where Modular underdrain intersects an Inspection or Maintenance Port, cut an "X" into the geotextile and pull it over the pipe. The flaps of the "X" should point AWAY from the Modular Underdrain (Fig. 16). Use stainless steel band clamp to seal the flaps to the pipe, being careful not to leave gaps that will allow bridging stone to enter the underdrain.

**IMPORTANT:** Take special care with Inside Corners on the footprint of the system. Cut Microgrid Mesh as needed to ensure that it lays flat against the Modular Underdrain. Use additional pieces to seal the corner and any cuts that are made (12" overlap).



Figure 15 (Above): 12" overlap of Biaxial Mesh on top of underdrain module



Figure 16 (Below): Cut an "X" into Biaxial Mesh to accommodate pipe penetration



Figure 17: fold corners flat against the tank

Fold Mesh for outside corners similar to sheets on a bed, and lay excess material flat against Modular Underdrain. Leave corners loose to avoid creating weak spots in the material. Temporarily secure excess fabric with duct tape (Fig. 17 left).

**TIP:** If using Prefabricated Pipe Boot Kits, install them onto the Inlet and Outlet Pipes, leaving the band clamps loose so that final adjustments may be made.

### Connect Inlet & Outlet Pipes

Where the inlet and outlet pipes connect to an underdrain module or exits the excavation, cut an "X" into the Microgrid Mesh or geotextile so that the pipe runs through the Microgrid and makes DIRECT contact with the underdrain module (Fig. 18). Pull the flaps of the "X" cut over the pipe so that the flaps of the "X" point AWAY from underdrain module. Use a stainless steel band clamp to seal the flaps to the pipe, being careful not to leave gaps that will allow bridging stone to enter the underdrain.



Figure 18: Cut "X" in Biaxial Mesh and Geotextile to accommodate outlet pipes and seal with stainless steel band clamps





## 8

### BACKFILL SIDES & TOP WITH PEAGRAVEL

Backfill bridging stone material around perimeter of the underdrain modules, distributing the material evenly to prevent shoving of the underdrain modules.

Use a trench roller, plate compactor, or hand tamper to compact backfill. When using taller underdrain modules, this placement and compaction should be done in 12" lifts.

Continue placing and compacting backfill around underdrain modules until the bridging stone reaches the top of the underdrain modules. Once bridging stone is level with the top of the underdrain, place 6" of bridging stone (or as specified) on top of underdrain modules (Fig 20).



Figure 19: Compaction of side is critical in order to keep soils from settling around the tank.

Figure 20 (Above): Place 6" of bridging stone on top of Microgrid Mesh

Figure 21 (Right): Use Inspection Port as marker for bridging stone depth

## 9

### PLACE HIGH PERFORMANCE BIOFILTRATION SOILS

Level bridging stone and, place 6" of high flow media on top. Use marked stakes to ensure elevations. Once 6" of media has been placed, set Gabions (if applicable). Once Gabions have been installed, continue placing media until it is at the specified depth, (typically 18"). The top of the media should be 6" below the top of the gabion wall (if specified).

**TIP:** Before you place bridging stone use your inspection port to mark the different levels of fill as specified (Figure 20)

**WARNING** High Flow Media is a highly engineered soil - do not mix media with any other site, fill or excavated soils.



Figure 22: Place biofiltration soils, being careful not to mix with any other site soils, to specified depth



Figure 23: Level Soils once they are filled to specified depth



10

## PLACE & FILL GABION (IF SPECIFIED)

(If gabion surround or leading edge is not specified continue to step 11)

Gabions are an optional feature that may not be included on your installation. If they are not included, skip this step and proceed to Step 11.

The gabion baskets are 12" tall. The interior dimensions of the gabion baskets needs to be equal to the exterior diameter of the underdrain unless specified otherwise. The top of the gabion should rise 6" above the top of the high flow media and 3" above the bark mulch.

Place a geotextile separation barrier between the gabion and existing site soils as well as the gabion and media so that soil will not migrate into the rock creating a void. (Figure 24).

Once the gabion baskets are placed, overfill the gabions with 3" x 5" washed bull rock, or other specified material. Once filled, seal the baskets with hog rings placed every three inches so that rock cannot be removed.

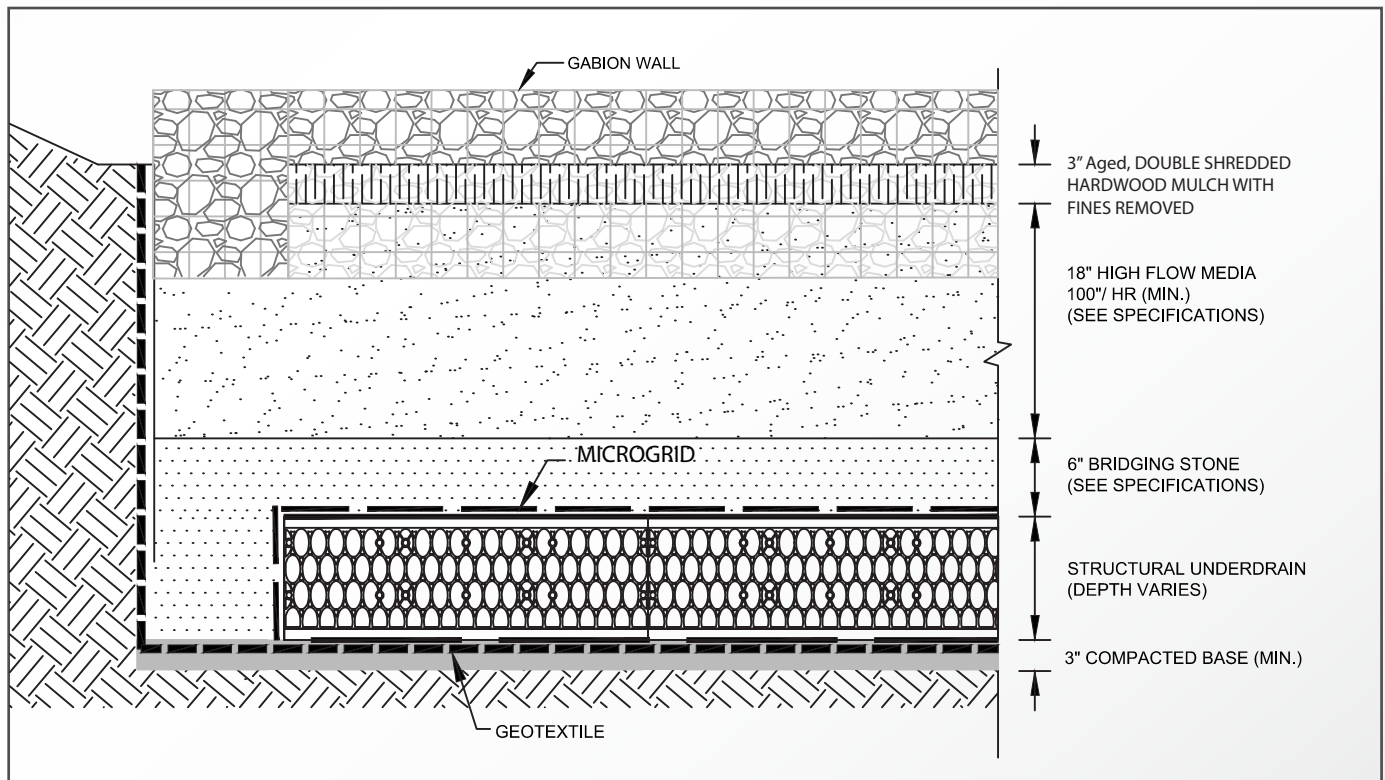


Figure 24: Place gabion wall so that it is square and level



Figure 25: Overfill rock into gabion and seal tight to prevent sagging. Rock will settle over time.

Figure 26







# 11

## CAP & SEAL

This step protects the system if it is not to be immediately activated. The system should not be activated (plantings and mulch placed, and stormwater allowed to flow into system) until the surrounding drainage area reaches at least 90% stabilization. Premature activation and/or failure to carry out this 'cap & seal' step may invalidate the warranty on this system.

Protecting the FocalPoint HPMBs during construction is of the utmost importance. The sediment contained in the runoff from an un-stabilized drainage area may contaminate the biofiltration media, reduce the effectiveness of the FocalPoint HPMBs or cause failure.

Cut an appropriately sized piece of impermeable material (10-33mm) to fit the surface of the media bed. If multiple pieces are required, weld/glue them together to create an impermeable seal over the media bed.

Place the impermeable cover over the media bed.

Pull excess Geotextile Excavation Liner (see step 4) over the top of the FocalPoint System, fully cover the impermeable seal, overlapping the geotextile to fully prevent silt and sediment from reaching the seal and underlying media. Using a portable blow torch to 'heat weld' the geotextile and prevent the geotextile from moving or opening. You should practice this procedure on scrap material away from the system prior to attempting to do it over the system. Non-woven geotextiles are flammable and you must take extreme caution in doing this so that you do not leave the torch on the geotextile for too long. This procedure will create a perfect seam that will prevent sediment from bypassing the geotextile (Figure 29). If you cut your fabric too short, just make a patch for the uncovered area with another piece of geotextile, welding it all the way around.

Once the system is capped and sealed, use a sign or any other warning mechanism to warn other contractors not to remove the cover until activation is authorized (Figure 31). This will protect the system until final stabilization. Other erosion control mechanisms may be required upstream of the FocalPoint HPMBs such as check dams, erosion control blankets, wattles or other best management practices. Please contact your local Convergent Value Added Reseller for suggestions.

### WARNING

**FAILURE TO INSTALL AND MAINTAIN ADEQUATE ESC PROTECTION FOR THE FOCALPOINT MAY VOID THE WARRANTY AND PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES.**



Figure 30: A hose extension added to a blow torch.

**TIP:** If you add a hose extension onto the torch, it makes the procedure much easier.



Figure 29: Geotextile being melted together with a torch.

Figure 31: FocalPoint Warning Sign



**CAUTION: BIOFILTRATION SYSTEM**

**DO NOT REMOVE GEOTEXTILE COVER**  
*No quite la cubierta geotextil*

**DO NOT PLACE SOIL ON TOP OF ENGINEERED MEDIA OR COVER**  
*No coloque tierra en la parte superior de la cubierta protectora*

**DO NOT STOCKPILE DIRT OR HAZARDOUS MATERIAL UPSTREAM**  
*No acumular tierra o materiales peligrosos en el canal de drenaje*

**CAUTION:** This FocalPoint Biofiltration System is an engineered stormwater treatment system. It must not be compromised prior to activation by Construction EcoServices. Do not remove the protective geotextile.

**PRECAUCIÓN:** FocalPoint Biofiltration System es un sistema de tratamiento de agua de lluvias. La cubierta protectora no debe ser removida o abierta, antes de ser activado solamente por Construction EcoServices.

**ACTIVATION PREREQUISITES.**  
*Requisitos de activación*

**70% OF THE DRAINAGE AREA MUST BE STABILIZED**  
*El 70% del área que rodea el drenaje debe ser estabilizado*

**STREET/PARKING MUST BE SWEEPED**  
*La calle/estacionamiento debe ser barrido*

**90% OF THE SWALE MUST BE VEGETATED OR MULCHED**  
*El 90% del canal de drenaje debe tener por debajo vegetación o mulch*

**CONTACT CONSTRUCTION ECOSERVICES FOR ACTIVATION**  
*Comuníquese con Construction EcoServices para la activación*

**832.456.1000**



**CONSTRUCTION**

**ECO SERVICES**

WWW.ECOSVS.COM



# 12

## ACTIVATE THE SYSTEM

Once 90% stabilization has been achieved; contact your local Convergent Water Technologies Value Added Reseller ([www.convergentwater.com](http://www.convergentwater.com)) for activation. Activation includes removing the protective 'cap and seal' cover on the biofiltration media bed and in situ testing of the media to insure that it meets performance specifications by means of an hydraulic conductivity test. This activation is provided by Convergent's VAR at no additional charge. At this time you may add specified plants to the media bed and the 3" non-floatable mulch layer if indicated (typical).

### IMPORTANT:

The FocalPoint HPMBs should always remain capped until 90% stabilization is achieved and be the last thing planted to ensure that construction sediment does not enter the system.



Figure 33: Planted FocalPoint HPMBs



Figure 32: Protected FocalPoint HPMBs

### WARNING

FAILURE TO CONFORM TO THIS STEP MAY VOID THE WARRANTY AND PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE. FOR THE FOCALPOINT HPMBs ACTIVATION CHECKLIST, CONTACT YOUR VALUE ADDED RESELLER.



# 13

## PLANTINGS & MULCH

### Placing the Plants:

1. Dig planting holes the depth of the root ball and two to three times as wide as the root ball. Wide holes encourage horizontal root growth that plants naturally produce.
2. With trees, you must ensure you are not planting too deep!! Don't dig holes deeper than root balls. The media should be placed at the root collar, not above the root collar; otherwise the stem will be vulnerable to disease.

### Planting:

1. Remove plastic containers from container-grown plants. For plants in fiber pots, break away the top or remove the pot entirely.

2. If roots are circling around the root ball exterior, cut through the roots in a few places and remove the first inch of roots and planting material around the root ball. Cutting helps prevent circling roots from eventually girdling the trunk. If roots are not circling, the root ball should still be rubbed to loosen roots and promote growth into the media.

3. Remove tags and labels from plants.

4. Prune broken branches or suckers.

5. Only stake trees with large crowns, or those situated on windy sites or where people may push them over. Stake for a maximum of one year. Allow trees a slight amount of flex rather than holding them rigidly in place. Use guying or attach material that won't damage the bark. To prevent trunk girdling, remove all guying material after one year. Insure that stakes do not penetrate the bridging stone or underlying modular drainage system.

6. Plants should be watered at planting, especially during drought periods.

SPACING		
Type of Planting	Rootball Size	Spacing on Center
Shrubs	< 1 gallon	24 inches
Shrubs	5 gallons	42 inches
Shrubs	15 gallon	60 inches
Clump Grasses		24 inches
Small Trees		12 feet

#### DO NOT:

- Mulch in excess of 3 inches
- Compact media around the root ball
- Do not use annuals
- Keep in mind that some perennials (i.e. daylilies, hostas, etc...) die back in fall and re-emerge in spring. If you want greenery year round, be mindful of the perennials used.

#### Mulching:

Cover the exposed root ball top with mulch. No mulch volcanoes! Mulch should not touch the plant base because it can hold too much moisture and invite disease and insects. Evenly place 3 inches of double shredded, aged hardwood mulch which has been screened to remove fines, on the surface of the media (if specified).

#### Erosion Control:

Where water is entering a focal point in one location, be sure to place erosion control stones or other scour prevention BMP to prevent scouring