



# State of New Jersey

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

Bureau of Stormwater Permitting

401 East State Street

P.O. Box 420 Mail Code 401-02B

Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

Tel. (609) 633-7021 • Fax (609) 777-0432

[www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/bnpc\\_home.htm](http://www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/bnpc_home.htm)

**PHILIP D. MURPHY**

*Governor*

**SHEILA Y. OLIVER**

*Lt. Governor*

**SHAWN M. LATOURETTE**

*Acting Commissioner*

**February 12, 2021**

Derek M. Berg  
Director – Stormwater Regulatory Management - East  
Contech Engineered Solutions LLC  
71 US Route 1, Suite F  
Scarborough, ME 04074

Re: MTD Lab Certification  
Filtterra® HC Bioretention System  
Off-line Installation Approved

### **TSS Removal Rate 80%**

Dear Mr. Berg:

The Stormwater Management rules under N.J.A.C. 7:8-5.5(b) and 5.7(c) allow the use of manufactured treatment devices (MTDs) for compliance with the design and performance standards at N.J.A.C. 7:8-5 if the pollutant removal rates have been verified by the New Jersey Corporation for Advanced Technology (NJCAT) and have been certified by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). Contech Engineered Solutions LLC has requested a Laboratory Certification for the Filtterra® HC Bioretention System (Filtterra® HC.)

The project falls under the “Procedure for Obtaining Verification of a Stormwater Manufactured Treatment Device from New Jersey Corporation for Advance Technology” dated January 25, 2013. The applicable protocol is the “New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Laboratory Protocol to Assess Total Suspended Solids Removal by a Filtration Manufactured Treatment Device” dated January 25, 2013.

NJCAT verification documents submitted to the NJDEP indicate that the requirements of the aforementioned protocol have been met or exceeded. The NJCAT letter also included a recommended certification TSS removal rate and the required maintenance plan. The NJCAT Verification Report with the Verification Appendix (dated January 2021) for this device is published online at [http://www.njcat.org/uploads/newDocs/NJCATFiltterraTechnologyVerificationReportFinal\\_.pdf](http://www.njcat.org/uploads/newDocs/NJCATFiltterraTechnologyVerificationReportFinal_.pdf).

**The NJDEP certifies the use of the Filterra<sup>®</sup> HC stormwater treatment unit by Contech Engineered Solutions LLC at a TSS removal rate of 80% when designed, operated, and maintained in accordance with the information provided in the Verification Appendix and the following conditions:**

1. The maximum treatment flow rate (MTFR) for the manufactured treatment device (MTD) is calculated using the New Jersey Water Quality Design Storm (1.25 inches in 2 hrs) in N.J.A.C. 7:8-5.5. The MTFR is calculated based on a verified loading rate of 3.12 gpm/ft<sup>2</sup> of effective filtration treatment area.
2. The Filterra<sup>®</sup> HC stormwater treatment unit shall be installed using the same configuration reviewed by NJCAT, and sized in accordance with the criteria specified in item 7 below.
3. This device cannot be used in series with another MTD or a media filter (such as a sand filter) to achieve an enhanced removal rate for total suspended solids (TSS) removal under N.J.A.C. 7:8-5.5.
4. Additional design criteria for MTDs can be found in the New Jersey Stormwater Best Management Practices (NJ Stormwater BMP) Manual, which can be found online at [www.njstormwater.org](http://www.njstormwater.org).
5. The maintenance plan for a site using this device shall incorporate, at a minimum, the maintenance requirements for the Filterra<sup>®</sup> HC. A copy of the maintenance plan is attached to this certification. However, it is recommended to review the maintenance website at <https://www.conteches.com/Portals/0/Documents/Maintenance%20Guides/Filterra%20HC%20OM%20Packet.pdf> for any changes to the maintenance requirements.
6. For an MTD to be considered “green infrastructure” (GI) in accordance with the March 2, 2020 amendments to the Stormwater Management rules at N.J.A.C. 7:8, the MTD must meet the GI definition noted at amended N.J.A.C. 7:8-1.2. Specifically, the MTD shall (1) treat stormwater runoff through infiltration into subsoil; and/or (2) treat stormwater runoff through filtration by vegetation or soil; or (3) store stormwater runoff for reuse.

The Filterra<sup>®</sup> HC filters stormwater runoff through an engineered biofiltration soil media and, thus, meets the definition of GI. Filterra<sup>®</sup> HC can be configured with or without a precast vault. Installations that will not include a precast vault will additionally need to comply the NJDEP Stormwater BMP Manual conditions regarding separation from the seasonal high water table and, if infiltration is proposed as an outlet, minimum vertical saturated hydraulic conductivity of the subsoil. Installations without a precast vault that do not rely on infiltration are required to maintain at least a one-foot separation from the seasonal high water table measured from the lowest point of the system. Installations without a precast vault that utilize infiltration are required to have the most hydraulically restrictive soil layer below the MTD meet the minimum tested vertical saturated hydraulic conductivity of one inch per hour and have at least two feet of separation from the seasonal high water table measured from the lowest point of the system.

## 7. Sizing Requirement:

The example below demonstrates the sizing procedure for the Filterra® HC:

Example: A 0.25-acre impervious site is to be treated to 80% TSS removal using the Filterra® HC. The impervious site runoff (Q) based on the New Jersey Water Quality Design Storm was determined to be 0.79 cfs.

The selection of the appropriate model of Filterra® HC is based upon both the maximum inflow drainage area and the MTFR. It is necessary to calculate the required model using both methods and to use the largest model determined by the two methods.

### Inflow Drainage Area Evaluation:

The drainage area to the Filterra® HC in this example is 0.25 acres. Included in Table 1 below, all of the Filterra® HC models are designed with a maximum allowable drainage area greater than 0.25 acres. Specifically, the Filterra® HC with a 4'x4' media bay and a maximum allowable drainage area of 0.40 acres would be the smallest model able to treat runoff without exceeding the maximum allowable drainage area.

### Maximum Treatment Flow Rate (MTFR) Evaluation:

The site runoff (Q) was based on the following:

time of concentration = 10 minutes

$i = 3.2$  in/hr (page 5-8, Fig. 5-3 of the NJ Stormwater BMP Manual)

$c = 0.99$  (runoff coefficient for impervious)

$Q = ciA = 0.99 \times 3.2 \times 0.25 = 0.79$  cfs

Given the site runoff is 0.79 cfs and based on the MTFR's listed in Table 1 below, the Filterra® HC with a 16'x8' media bay and an MTFR of 0.889 cfs would be the smallest model that could be used to treat the impervious area without exceeding the MTFR. If using more than one unit for treating runoff, the units should be configured such that the flowrate to each unit does not exceed the design MTFR for each unit and ensuring the entire 0.25 acre area is treated.

The MTFR evaluation results will be used since that method results in the highest minimum configuration determined by the two methods.

The sizing table corresponding to the available system models is noted below:

**Table 1. Filterra® HC MFRs and Maximum Allowable Drainage Areas**

	Available Filterra® Media Bay Sizes (feet)	Effective Filtration Treatment Area (ft <sup>2</sup> )	Treatment Flow Rate (cfs)	Maximum Allowable Drainage Area (ac)
Standard Configuration Filterra and Bioscape Vaults	4x4	16	0.111	0.40
	4x6 or 6x4	24	0.167	0.60
	4.5x7.83 or 7.83x4.5 (Nominal 4x8/8x4)	35.24	0.245	0.89
	6x6	36	0.250	0.91
	6x8 or 8x6	48	0.333	1.21
	6x10 or 10x6	60	0.417	1.51
	6x12 or 12x6	72	0.500	1.81
	7x13 or 13x7	91	0.632	2.29
	14x8	112	0.778	2.82
	16x8	128	0.889	3.22
	18x8	144	1.000	3.62
	20x8	160	1.111	4.03
	22x8	176	1.222	4.43
Peak Diversion Filterra Vaults	4x4	16	0.111	0.40
	4.5x5.83 (Nominal 4x6)	26.24	0.182	0.66
	6x4	24	0.167	0.60
	6x6	36	0.250	0.91
	6x8	48	0.333	1.21
	6x10 or 10x6	60	0.417	1.51
	7x10	70	0.486	1.76
	8x10.5	84	0.583	2.11
	8x12.5	100	0.694	2.52
Custom and/or Filterra Bioscape		Media Area in ft <sup>2</sup>	0.00694 * (Media Area in ft <sup>2</sup> )	0.0252 * (Media Area in ft <sup>2</sup> )

Be advised a detailed maintenance plan is mandatory for any project with a Stormwater BMP subject to the Stormwater Management rules, N.J.A.C. 7:8. The plan must include all of the items identified in the Stormwater Management rules, N.J.A.C. 7:8-5.8. Such items include, but are not limited to, the list of inspection and maintenance equipment and tools, specific corrective and preventative maintenance tasks, indication of problems in the system, and training of maintenance personnel. Additional information can be found in Chapter 8: Maintenance and Retrofit of Stormwater Management Measures.

If you have any questions regarding the above information, please contact me at (609) 633-7021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gabriel Mahon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gabriel Mahon, Chief  
Bureau of Stormwater Permitting

Attachment: Maintenance Plan

cc: Chron File  
Richard Magee, NJCAT  
Vince Mazzei, NJDEP – Water & Land Management  
Nancy Kempel, NJDEP– BSTP  
Keith Stampfel, NJDEP – DLRP  
Dennis Contois, NJDEP – DLRP

# Filterra HC Owner's Manual



**filterra**<sup>®</sup>  
Bioretention Systems

**C NTECH**<sup>®</sup>  
ENGINEERED SOLUTIONS







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# Introduction

Thank you for your purchase of the Filterra® HC Bioretention System. Filterra HC is a specially engineered stormwater treatment system incorporating high performance biofiltration media to remove pollutants from stormwater runoff. All components of the system work together to provide a sustainable long-term solution for treating stormwater runoff.

The Filterra HC system has been delivered to you with protection in place to resist intrusion of construction related sediment which can contaminate the biofiltration media and result in inadequate system performance. These protection devices are intended as a best practice and cannot fully prevent contamination. It is the purchaser’s responsibility to provide adequate measures to prevent construction related runoff from entering the Filterra HC system.

Included with your purchase is Activation of the Filterra HC system by the manufacturer as well as a 1-year warranty from delivery of the system and 1-year of routine maintenance (mulch replacement, debris removal, and pruning of vegetation) up to twice during the first year after activation.

## Design and Installation

Each project presents different scopes for the use of Filterra HC systems. Information and help may be provided to the design engineer during the planning process. Correct Filterra HC box sizing (per local regulations) is essential to predict pollutant removal rates for a given area. The engineer shall submit calculations for approval by the local jurisdiction. The contractor is responsible for the correct installation of Filterra HC units as shown in approved plans. A comprehensive installation manual covering all Filterra configurations is available at [www.ContechES.com](http://www.ContechES.com).

## Activation Overview

Activation of the Filterra HC system is a procedure completed by the manufacturer to place the system into working condition. This involves the following items:

- Removal of construction runoff protection devices
- Planting of the system’s vegetation
- Placement of pretreatment mulch layer using mulch certified for use in Filterra HC systems.

Activation **MUST** be provided by the manufacturer to ensure proper site conditions are met for Activation, proper installation of the vegetation, and use of pretreatment mulch certified for use in Filterra HC systems.



## Minimum Requirements

The minimum requirements for Filterra HC Activation are as follows:

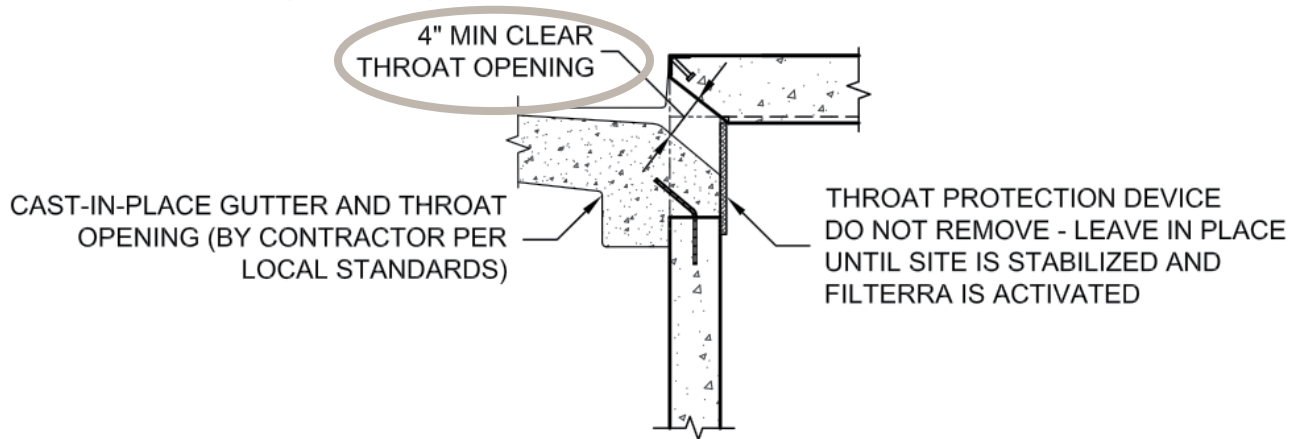
1. The site landscaping must be fully stabilized, i.e. full landscaping installed and some grass cover (not just straw and seed) is required to reduce sediment transport. Construction debris and materials should be removed from surrounding area.



2. Final paving must be completed. Final paving ensures that paving materials will not enter and contaminate the Filterra HC system during the paving process, and that the plant will receive runoff from the drainage area, assisting with plant survival for the Filterra HC system.



3. Filterra HC throat opening (if applicable) should be at least 4" in order to ensure adequate capacity for inflow and debris.



An Activation Checklist is included on page 12 to ensure proper conditions are met for Contech to perform the Activation services. A charge of \$500.00 will be invoiced for each Activation visit requested by Customer where Contech determines that the site does not meet the conditions required for Activation.



## Filterra HC Plant Selection Overview

Plant Lists are available on the Contech website highlighting recommended plants for Filterra systems in your area. Keep in mind that plants are subject to availability due to seasonality and required minimum size for the Filterra HC system. Plants installed in the Filterra HC system are container plants (max 15 gallon) from nursery stock and will be immature in height and spread at Activation.

It is the responsibility of the owner to provide adequate irrigation when necessary to the plant of the Filterra HC system.

The “Planting Requirements for Filterra HC Systems” document is included as an appendix and discusses proper selection and care of the plants within Filterra HC systems.

## Warranty Overview

Refer to the Contech Engineered Solutions LLC Stormwater Treatment System LIMITED WARRANTY for further information. The following conditions may void the Filterra HC system’s warranty and waive the manufacturer provided Activation and Maintenance services:

- Unauthorized activation or performance of any of the items listed in the activation overview
- Any tampering, modifications or damage to the Filterra HC system or runoff protection devices
- Removal of any Filterra HC system components
- Failure to prevent construction related runoff from entering the Filterra HC system
- Failure to properly store and protect any Filterra HC components (including media and underdrain stone) that may be shipped separately from the vault

## Routine Maintenance Guidelines

Routine maintenance is included by the manufacturer on all Filterra HC systems for the first year after activation. This includes a maximum of 2 visits to remove debris, replace pretreatment mulch, and prune the vegetation. More information is provided in the Operations and Maintenance Guidelines. Some Filterra HC systems also contain diversion bypass or outlet bays. Depending on site pollutant loading, these bays may require periodic removal of debris, however this is not included in the first year of maintenance and would likely not be required within the first year of operation.

These services, as well as routine maintenance outside of the included first year, can be provided by certified maintenance providers listed on the Contech website. Training can also be provided to other stormwater maintenance or landscape providers.



## Why Maintain?

All stormwater treatment systems require maintenance for effective operation. This necessity is often incorporated in your property's permitting process as a legally binding BMP maintenance agreement. Other reasons to maintain are:

- Avoiding legal challenges from your jurisdiction's maintenance enforcement program.
- Prolonging the expected lifespan the media in the Filterra HC system.
- Avoiding more costly media replacement.
- Helping reduce pollutant loads leaving your property.

Simple maintenance of the Filterra HC is required to continue effective pollutant removal from stormwater runoff before discharge into downstream waters. This procedure will also extend the longevity of the living biofilter system. The Filterra HC system is also subjected to various materials entering the inlet, including trash, silt, leaves, etc. which will be contained above the mulch layer. Too much silt may inhibit the Filterra HC system flow rate, which is the reason for site stabilization before activation. Regular replacement of the mulch stops accumulation of such sediment.

If the system is not maintained on regular intervals, is subject to a catastrophic spill or other event, or subject to unusual pollutant loading, full media bed replacement could be required. Please contact Contech for further evaluation if you feel this may be necessary.

## When to Maintain?

Contech includes a 1-year maintenance plan with each system purchase. Annual included maintenance consists of a maximum of two (2) scheduled visits. Additional maintenance may be necessary depending on sediment and trash loading (by Owner or at additional cost). The start of the maintenance plan begins when the system is activated.

Maintenance visits are scheduled seasonally; the spring visit aims to clean up after winter loads including salts and sands while the fall visit helps the system by removing excessive leaf litter.

It has been found that in regions which receive between 30-50 inches of annual rainfall, (2) two visits are generally required; regions with less rainfall often only require (1) one visit per annum. Varying land uses can affect maintenance frequency; e.g. some fast food restaurants require more frequent trash removal. Contributing drainage areas which are subject to new development wherein the recommended erosion and sediment control measures have not been implemented may require additional maintenance visits.

Some sites may be subjected to extreme sediment or trash loads, requiring more frequent maintenance visits. This is the reason for detailed notes of maintenance actions per unit, helping the Supplier and Owner predict future maintenance frequencies, reflecting individual site conditions.

Owners must promptly notify the (maintenance) Supplier of any damage to the plant(s), which constitute(s) an integral part of the bioretention technology. Owners should also advise other landscape or maintenance contractors to leave all maintenance to the Supplier (i.e. no pruning or fertilizing) during the first year.





## Exclusion of Services

Clean up due to major contamination such as oils, chemicals, toxic spills, etc. will result in additional costs and are not covered under the Supplier maintenance contract. Should a major contamination event occur the Owner must block off the outlet pipe of the Filterra HC (where the cleaned runoff drains to, such as drop inlet) and block off the inlet of the Filterra HC. The Supplier should be informed immediately.

## Maintenance Visit Summary

Each maintenance visit consists of the following simple tasks (detailed instructions below).

1. Inspection of Filterra HC and surrounding area
2. Removal of tree grate and erosion control stones
3. Removal of debris, trash and mulch
4. Mulch replacement
5. Plant health evaluation & pruning or replacement as necessary
6. Clean area around Filterra HC
7. Complete paperwork

## Maintenance Tools, Safety Equipment and Supplies

Ideal tools include camera, bucket, shovel, broom, pruners, hoe/rake, and tape measure. Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should be used in accordance with local or company procedures. This may include impervious gloves where the type of trash is unknown, high visibility clothing and barricades when working near traffic and also safety hats and shoes. A T-Bar or crowbar should be used for moving the tree grates (up to 170 lbs ea.). Most visits require minor trash removal and a full replacement of mulch. See below for actual number of bagged mulch that is required in each media bay size. Mulch should be a double shredded, hardwood variety. Some visits may require additional Filterra engineered soil media for the Filterra HC system, available from the Supplier.

	Available Filterra® HC Media Bay Sizes (feet)	Filter Surface Area (ft <sup>2</sup> )	Mulch Volume at 3" Depth (ft <sup>2</sup> )	# of 2 ft <sup>2</sup> Mulch Bags
Standard Configuration Filtrerra and Filterra Bioscape Vaults	4x4	16	4	2
	4x6 or 6x4	24	6	3
	4.5x7.83 or 7.83x4.5 (Nominal 4x8/8x4)	35.24	9	5
	6x6	36	9	5
	6x8 or 8x6	48	12	6
	6x10 or 10x6	60	15	8
	6x12 or 12x6	72	18	9
	7x13 or 13x7	91	23	12
	14x8	112	28	14
	16x8	128	32	16
	18x8	144	36	18
	20x8	160	40	20
22x8	176	44	22	
Peak Diversion Filtrerra Vaults	4x4	16	4	2
	4.5x5.83 or 5.83x4.5 (Nominal 4x6/6x4)	26.24	7	4
	6x6	36	9	5
	6x8	48	12	6
	6x10 or 10x6	60	15	8
	7x10	70	18	9
	8x10.5	84	21	11
	8x12.5	100	25	13
	Custom and/or Filterra Bioscape	Media Area in ft <sup>2</sup>	0.25 x (Media Area in ft <sup>2</sup> )	0.125 x (Media Area in ft <sup>2</sup> )

# Maintenance Visit Procedure

Keep sufficient documentation of maintenance actions to predict location specific maintenance frequencies and needs. An example Maintenance Report is included in this manual.



## 1. Inspection of Filterra HC and surrounding area

- Record individual unit before maintenance with photograph (numbered). Record on Maintenance Report (see example in this document) the following:

Record on Maintenance Report the following:

Standing Water	yes		no
Damage to Box Structure	yes		no
Damage to Grate	yes		no
Is Bypass Clear	yes		no

If yes answered to any of these observations, record with close-up photograph (numbered).



## 2. Removal of tree grate and erosion control stones

- Remove cast iron grates for access into Filterra HC box.
- Dig out silt (if any) and mulch and remove trash & foreign items.

## 3. Removal of debris, trash and mulch

Record on Maintenance Report the following:

Silt/Clay	yes		no
Cups/ Bags	yes		no
Leaves	yes		no
Buckets Removed			_____



- After removal of mulch and debris, measure distance from the top of the Filterra engineered media soil to the top of the top slab. Compare the measured distance to the distance shown on the approved Contract Drawings for the system. Add Filterra media (not top soil or other) to bring media up as needed to distance indicated on drawings.

Record on Maintenance Report the following:

Distance to Top of Top Slab (inches)	_____
Inches of Media Added	_____





#### 4. Mulch replacement

- Add double shredded mulch evenly across the entire unit to a depth of 3".
- Refer to Filterra Mulch Specifications for information on acceptable sources.
- Ensure correct repositioning of erosion control stones by the Filterra HC inlet to allow for entry of trash during a storm event.
- Replace Filterra HC grates correctly using appropriate lifting or moving tools, taking care not to damage the plant.



#### 5. Plant health evaluation and pruning or replacement as necessary

- Examine the plant's health and replace if necessary.
- Prune as necessary to encourage growth in the correct directions

Record on Maintenance Report the following:

Height above Grate	_____	(ft)
Width at Widest Point	_____	(ft)
Health	healthy   unhealthy	
Damage to Plant	yes   no	
Plant Replaced	yes   no	



#### 6. Clean area around Filterra HC

- Clean area around unit and remove all refuse to be disposed of appropriately.



#### 7. Complete paperwork

- Deliver Maintenance Report and photographs to appropriate location (normally Contech during maintenance contract period).
- Some jurisdictions may require submission of maintenance reports in accordance with approvals. It is the responsibility of the Owner to comply with local regulations.



# Appendix 1 – Filterra® Activation Checklist



Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Site Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Site Contact Phone/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Site Owner/End User Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Site Owner/End User Phone/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Activation Date: \_\_\_\_\_ (provide 2 weeks minimum from date this form is submitted)

Site Designation	System Size	Final Pavement / Top Coat Complete	Landscaping Complete / Grass Emerging	Construction materials / Piles / Debris Removed	Throat Opening Measures 4" Min. Height	Plant Species Requested
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
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Attach additional sheets as necessary.

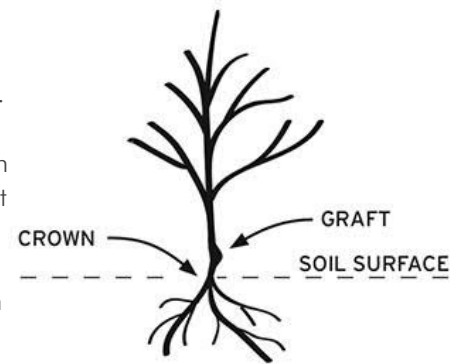
**NOTE:** A charge of \$500.00 will be invoiced for each Activation visit requested by Customer where Contech determines that the site does not meet the conditions required for Activation. ONLY Contech authorized representatives can perform Activation of Filterra HC systems; unauthorized Activations will void the system warranty and waive manufacturer supplied Activation and 1st Year Maintenance.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix 2 – Planting Requirements for Filterra® HC Systems

### Plant Material Selection

- Select plant(s) as specified in the engineering plans and specifications.
- Select plant(s) with full root development but not to the point where root bound.
- Use local nursery container plants only. Ball and burlapped plants are not permitted.
- For precast Filterra HC systems with a tree grate, plant(s) must not have scaffold limbs at least 14 inches from the crown due to spacing between the top of the mulch and the tree grate. Lower branches can be pruned away provided there are sufficient scaffold branches for tree or shrub development.
- For precast Filterra HC systems with a tree grate, at the time of installation, it is required that plant(s) must be at least 6" above the tree grate opening at installation for all Filterra configurations. This DOES NOT apply to Full Grate Cover designs.
- Plant(s) shall not have a mature height greater than 25-30 feet.
- A 7-15 gallon container size shall be used.
- For precast Filterra HC systems, plant(s) should have a single trunk at installation, and pruning may be necessary at activation and maintenance for some of the faster growing species, or species known to produce basal sprouts



### Plant Installation

- During transport protect the plant leaves from wind and excessive jostling.
- Prior to removing the plant(s) from the container, ensure the soil moisture is sufficient to maintain the integrity of the root ball. If needed, pre-wet the container plant.
- Cut away any roots which are growing out of the container drain holes. Plants with excessive root growth from the drain holes should be rejected.
- Plant(s) should be carefully removed from the pot by gently pounding on the sides of the container with the fist to loosen root ball. Then carefully slide out. Do not lift plant(s) by trunk as this can break roots and cause soil to fall off. Extract the root ball in a horizontal position and support it to prevent it from breaking apart. Alternatively, the pot can be cut away to minimize root ball disturbance.
- Remove any excess soil from above the root flare after removing plant(s) from container.
- Excavate a hole with a diameter 4" greater than the root ball, gently place the plant(s).
- If plant(s) have any circling roots from being pot bound, gently tease them loose without breaking them.
- If root ball has a root mat on the bottom, it should be shaved off with a knife just above the mat line.
- Plant the tree/shrub/grass with the top of the root ball 1" above surrounding media to allow for settling.
- All plants should have the main stem centered in the tree grate (where applicable) upon completion of installation.
- With all trees/shrubs, remove dead, diseased, crossed/rubbing, sharply crotched branches or branches growing excessively long or in wrong direction compared to majority of branches.
- To prevent transplant shock (especially if planting takes place in the hot season), it may be necessary to prune some of the foliage to compensate for reduced root uptake capacity. This is accomplished by pruning away some of the smaller secondary branches or a main scaffold branch if there are too many. Too much foliage relative to the root ball can dehydrate and damage the plant.
- Plant staking may be required.



## Mulch Installation

- Only mulch that has been meeting Contech Engineered Solutions' mulch specifications can be used in the Filterra HC system.
- Mulch must be applied to a depth of 3" evenly over the surface of the media.

## Irrigation Requirements

- Each Filterra HC system must receive adequate irrigation to ensure survival of the living system during periods of drier weather.
- Irrigation sources include rainfall runoff from downspouts and/or gutter flow, applied water through the tree grate or in some cases from an irrigation system with emitters installed during construction.
- At Activation: Apply about one (cool climates) to two (warm climates) gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter over the root ball.
- During Establishment: In common with all plants, each Filterra HC plant will require more frequent watering during the establishment period. One inch of applied water per week for the first three months is recommended for cooler climates (2 to 3 inches for warmer climates). If the system is receiving rainfall runoff from the drainage area, then irrigation may not be needed. Inspection of the soil moisture content can be evaluated by gently brushing aside the mulch layer and feeling the soil. Be sure to replace the mulch when the assessment is complete. Irrigate as needed\*\*.
- Established Plants: Established plants have fully developed root systems and can access the entire water column in the media. Therefore, irrigation is less frequent but requires more applied water when performed. For a mature system assume 3.5 inches of available water within the media matrix. Irrigation demand can be estimated as 1" of irrigation demand per week. Therefore, if dry periods exceed 3 weeks, irrigation may be required. It is also important to recognize that plants which are exposed to windy areas and reflected heat from paved surfaces may need more frequent irrigation. Long term care should develop a history which is more site specific.

\*\* Five gallons per square yard approximates 1 inch of water. Therefore, for a 6' by 6' Filterra HC approximately 20-60 gallons of water is needed. To ensure even distribution of water it needs to be evenly sprinkled over the entire surface of the filter bed, with special attention to make sure the root ball is completely wetted. NOTE: if needed, measure the time it takes to fill a five-gallon bucket to estimate the applied water flow rate then calculate the time needed to irrigate the Filterra HC system. For example, if the flow rate of the sprinkler is 5 gallons/minute then it would take 12 minutes to irrigate a 6' by 6' filter.









9025 Centre Pointe Drive, Suite 400  
West Chester, OH 45069  
info@conteches.com | 800-338-1122  
www.ContechES.com

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