

Maintenance Advisory

From Jon W. Reincke, Engineer of Operations

Maintenance of Roadway Edge Drains

Scheduled maintenance is required to keep pavement subsurface drainage open and functioning so the pavement structure will drain as designed. This is critical to the continued success of any edge drain system. Inadequate maintenance is a universal problem. The combination of vegetative growth, debris and fines discharging from the edge drains will eventually plug outlet pipes. A plugged subsurface drainage system may be worse than having no drainage system at all because the pavement system can become permanently saturated.

The spacing of the outlets may vary depending on when the drains were installed. It is suggested that you locate one outlet and then walk parallel to the roadway until you find the next outlet and use that spacing to locate the remaining outlets.

In order to help the pavement system perform as designed, MDOT maintenance forces and contract agencies should follow the recommended work method in activity #1280 Culvert, Underdrain, and Edge Drain Cleaning.

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Vegetation overgrowth



Plugged outlet



Outlet jetting



Properly maintained outlet

