



Introduction

Routine maintenance can prevent tile drainage system failure. Annual system inspection helps ensure that tile drainage is working properly and can help stop minor issues from becoming major break downs. The most frequently reported impediments to tile drainage are debris, animal burrows, and collapsed tiles.

The Annual Inspection Checklist below outlines what aspects of the tile drainage system to inspect and how to make repairs. It is important to keep records of inspection locations and maintenance performed to help you keep the tile system functioning properly over time.

Annual Tile Drainage System Inspection Checklist.

	What	Description	How
<input type="checkbox"/>	25' vegetated perennial buffer around standpipes and inlets	In accordance with Vermont state law, RAPs Section 6.07(c).	Seed with perennial grass mix 25' around standpipes and inlets.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vents, inlets, and standpipes functioning properly (check in spring & fall)	Vents, inlets, and standpipes are in good working order and debris is not blocking flow	Fix or replace broken vents and repairs. Debris can be cleaned out by hand.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rodent guards functioning effectively	In accordance with Vermont state law, RAPs Section 12.1(c), new or modified tile must have rodent guards.	Fix or replace broken guards.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Outlets functioning properly	Outlets are not broken, crushed, or damaged	Replace or repair broken pipe
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ditches functioning properly	Areas by outlets do not have excessive vegetation growth or sediment accumulation	Remove excess vegetation or sediment
<input type="checkbox"/>	End-of-tile	Excessive erosion is not occurring	Hardscape with rocks below tile line and adjacent area to dissipate flow.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mid-field blockage	Results in poor drainage or blow-out	Repair. If blockage is due to tree roots, re-route tile line.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Blowouts	Cracks or bursts that result from blockage or high pressure during high flow. Common in fittings and weak spots.	Repair broken tile and regrade impacted land.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Iron-ochre growth (These are not commonly observed in Vermont)	A red, yellow, or tan material that can obstruct flow, more prevalent in soils that are wet then dry, like those under irrigation.	Use high pressure water jet cleaning (>400 psi) for larger drain tile perforations or when drains are enveloped in gravel. Use low pressure jet cleaning (<400 psi) when drain tile perforations are small or in sandy soils.

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