

# Uses and Limitations of Proprietary BMPs

Proprietary BMPs can be used for the following applications:

- **Pretreatment.** Proprietary BMPs may provide pretreatment for stormwater before discharging to another structural stormwater BMP. [Chapter 13 - Structural Stormwater BMP Design Guidance](#) provides design guidance for proprietary BMPs when used as pretreatment. Proprietary BMPs should meet all of the following criteria to qualify as acceptable for pretreatment:
  - Remove a minimum of 50% TSS, based on pollutant concentrations or loads, as verified by a recommended independent third-party stormwater BMP performance verification program (refer to the [Third-Party Performance Verification](#) section for recommended programs)
  - Be designed per the manufacturer's recommendations

- Be designed as off-line systems or have an internal bypass to avoid large flows and resuspension of pollutants
  - If designed in an on-line configuration, proprietary pretreatment devices should be designed in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and any applicable use limitations upon which the third-party performance certification are based.
- **Treatment.** Proprietary BMPs may be used as stand-alone treatment systems to provide additional stormwater treatment (without retention) credit toward Standard 1 – Runoff Volume and Pollutant Reduction ([Chapter 4 - Stormwater Management Standards and Performance Criteria](#)). Proprietary BMPs cannot be used to meet the retention requirements of Standard 1 since they do not provide infiltration or runoff reduction. Proprietary BMPs should meet all of the following criteria to qualify as acceptable for treatment:
- Remove a minimum of 80% TSS, based on pollutant concentrations or loads, as verified by a recommended independent third-party stormwater BMP performance verification program (refer to the [Third-Party Performance Verification](#) section for recommended programs)
  - Be designed per the manufacturer's recommendations
  - Be sized to treat runoff associated with the Water Quality Volume (WQV) or associated peak flow rate (Water Quality Flow or WQF)
  - Be designed as off-line systems or have an internal bypass to avoid flows in excess of the WQF and resuspension of pollutants
  - If designed in an on-line configuration, proprietary pretreatment devices should be designed in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and any applicable use limitations upon which the third-party performance certification are based.