

**PRIMARY USE:** Reduction of bacteria and organic matter in stormwater runoff.  
**ADDITIONAL USES:** Promote infiltration.

## CURB ELIMINATION

**What is it?** A non-structural practice to reduce pollutant content in stormwater.

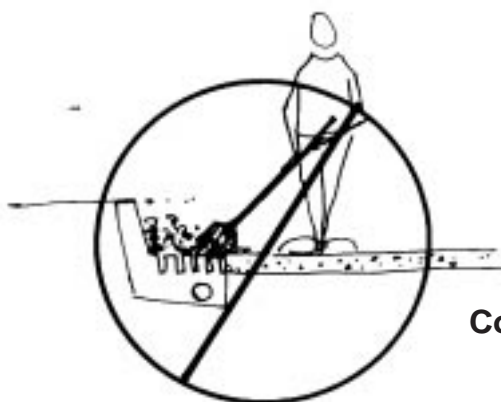
### Purpose

The elimination of curbs has been shown to reduce pollution entering the aquatic environment. Curbs function as channels for stormwater creating runoff flows at high velocities, and carrying much sediment and other pollution. Without curbs, runoff can be spread over large vegetated areas where runoff velocities can be reduced and pollutants can settle out and be taken up by plants or soils.

**This:**



**Versus This:**



### Limitations

May not be practical in some urban and suburban settings. Drainage areas should be vegetated or otherwise stabilized.

### Materials

This is a non-structural practice, although the drainage structure used may require vegetation or rip-rap for stabilization.

### Installation

Sections of existing curb can be removed and curb outlets can be installed at regular intervals or in appropriate areas to allow the stormwater to flow onto well-vegetated areas. To avoid erosion, flooding and trash accumulation, the areas to install curb outlets should be carefully chosen and street cleaning programs should be modified to maintain these areas. See sections on stabilized or vegetated waterways for specific guidelines.

**Source:** Center for Sustainable Design; Mississippi State University, MS.