

Stormbloc® is a cost-effective stormwater geocellular block system which provides underground storage or infiltration of stormwater suitable for landscaped or low-traffic areas. Access for inspection and maintenance can be included where required using Stormbloc® Inspect chambers and Stormbloc® Extra blocks.

### Stormbloc® Components

The standard Stormbloc® block is a standalone component which just requires a base plate for the bottom layer of the tank.

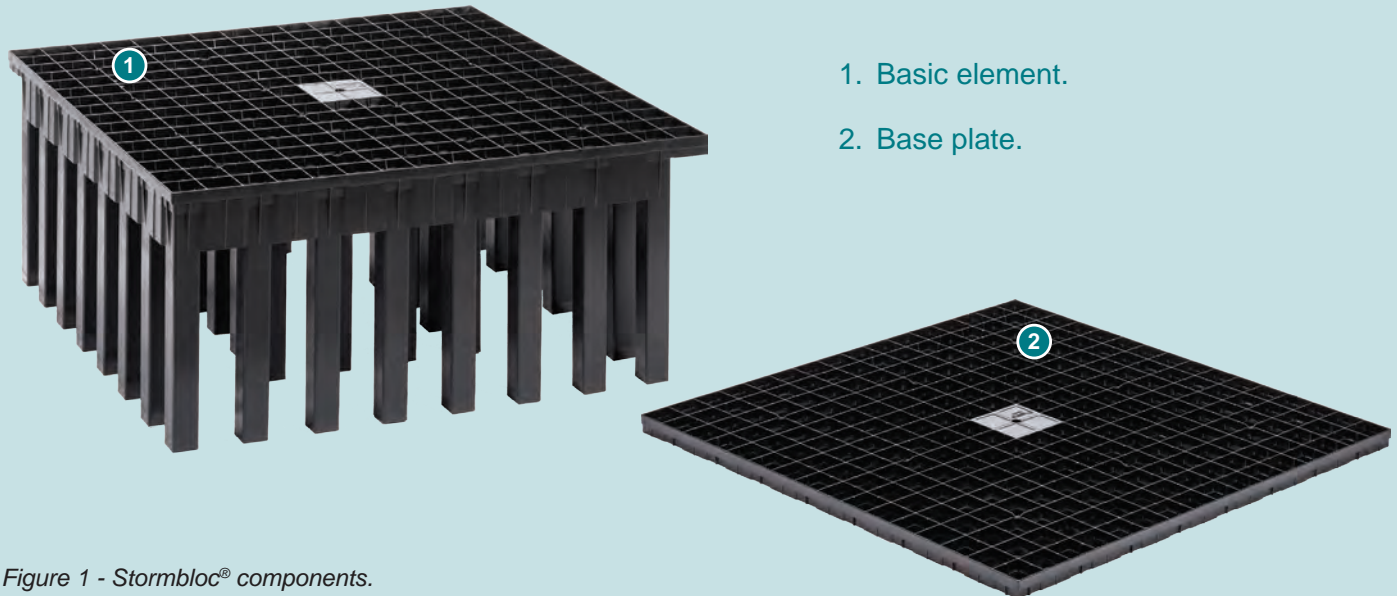


Figure 1 - Stormbloc® components.

### Benefits

#### Meet Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) objectives

Stormbloc® enables designers and developers to meet to SuDS objectives by returning stormwater back to the natural water cycle at or near its source, without taking up valuable space for amenity or development above ground.

#### Maximise your storage

The Stormbloc® Optimum range can store 960 litres of stormwater below ground in 1 cubic metre of volume, more than 60% more stormwater storage in the same volume when compared to conventional gravel infiltration trenches.

#### Save space on site

Both Stormbloc® Extra and Stormbloc® stack into compact nests for transport and storage, saving up to 75% of valuable space. The nested units save time and cost during installation, enabling more storage volume to be lifted into excavations at any one time.

#### Lightweight and strong

Combining strength with a storage coefficient of 96%, Stormbloc® allows you to plan and design effective SuDS systems for low traffic or landscaped areas.

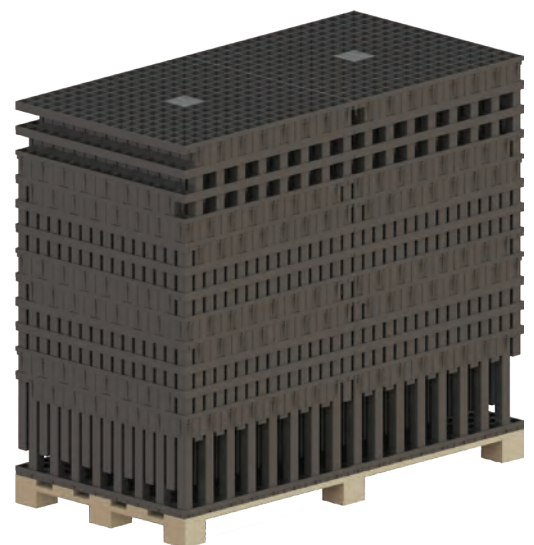


Figure 2 - Stormbloc® components stacked on a pallet

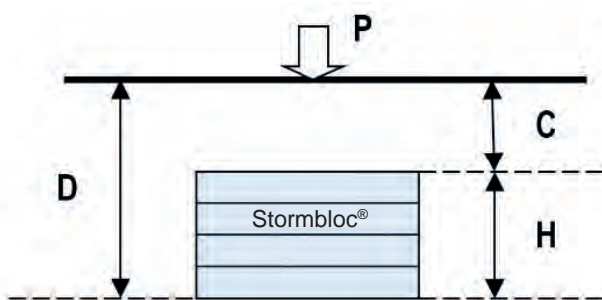
# Dimensions, capacity and strength

	Stormbloc® Half Block
<b>Material</b>	Polypropylene (up to 100% recycled material)
	Stormbloc® is manufactured from approved recycled polypropylene. Due to its long life and minor maintenance requirements, there is a reduced need for recycling during its life span. At the end of the life cycle, Stormbloc® can be recycled safely at minimal risk to the environment.
<b>Length / Width / Height</b>	800 / 800 / 330 mm (Note: for the bottom layer add 30 mm for the base plate)
<b>Constructed Block Weight</b>	10 kg (1 element and 1 base plate)
<b>Nominal Block Volume</b>	0.230 m <sup>3</sup>
<b>Nominal Storage Capacity per Unit</b>	0.220 m <sup>3</sup>
<b>Porosity</b>	96%
<b>Vertical Ultimate Compressive Strength</b>	313 kN/m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Horizontal Ultimate Compressive Strength</b>	93 kN/m <sup>2</sup>

Table 1 - Stormbloc® Extra technical data.

## Structural testing

Stormbloc® has undergone extensive 3rd party structural testing and FEA modelling to ensure that it is suitable for the low traffic or landscaped loadings.



C = Cover Depth  
D = Maximum Installation Depth  
H = Height of System

Figure 3 - Stormbloc® loading.

	Landscaped Area with No Access for Vehicular Traffic	Light Traffic Loading of 2.5 t
Coverage C (m)	≥0.5 m	≥0.8 m
Installation Depth D (m)	D ≤ 3.0	D ≤ 3.0
Height H of System (m)	0.36 ≤ H ≤ 2.01	0.36 ≤ H ≤ 2.01
Groundwater	None	None

Table 2 - Stormbloc® loading parameters.

## Expert Design Service

Hydro's professional engineers are on hand to provide free support for Stormbloc® storage / infiltration tank design.

Call +44 (0)1275 337937 or email [stormwater@hydro-int.com](mailto:stormwater@hydro-int.com)

# Detail design

Hydro International offers a free outline design service, ensuring the most efficient and cost-effective solution for infiltration / soakaway and storage structures. A further, more detailed Hydrological Analysis service is also available if required.

The use of good engineering practice and awareness of the limitations of all materials used will avoid construction and operational problems. Hydro International has an expert and dedicated workforce capable of providing advice on many aspects of system design.

## 1. Storage volume calculation

The system designer needs to calculate the volume of storage required. There are a number of suitable methods that can be used to calculate the storage volume. These vary from relatively simple manual methods to sophisticated simulation models.

As part of Hydro International's free design service we offer an estimated storage volume using the industry standard drainage modelling software suite: MicroDrainage®.

General design guidance on modelling of Stormbloc® and Hydro-Brake® Optimum vortex flow controls can also be found on our website: [hydro-int.com/resources](http://hydro-int.com/resources).

## Design Requirements

To be able to carry out storage calculations we require the following, site specific information:

### Infiltration Systems

1. Design Return Period
2. Site Location
3. Drained Impermeable Area
4. Soil Infiltration Rate\*

### Storage Systems

1. Design Return Period
2. Site Location
3. Drained Impermeable Area
4. Maximum Allowable Discharge Rate

\* The soil infiltration rate should be derived from a site porosity test using a recognised method (eg. BRE digest 365).

## 2. Location and layout

Consider the most appropriate and cost-effective location for the infiltration/storage facility. The flexibility afforded by Stormbloc® combined with the substantial reduction in volume required (when compared with gravel pits for instance) allows the design of storage into locations that would be impractical for traditional systems.

Due to the modular nature of the system, Stormbloc® can be assembled to virtually any size, shape, depth or configuration and obstructions such as trees, pipework and rock outcrops can easily be circumvented.

Pipe connections can be made from multiple directions into the Stormbloc® system. Inspection / maintenance chambers should be made at critical points (eg. inlet, change of flow direction) to provide a continuous flow path through the system regardless of changes of flow direction.

The Stormbloc® system can be installed in locations including under lightly-trafficked roads, footpaths, public open spaces, landscaped areas, gardens, tennis courts and playing fields.

For infiltration systems consideration should be given to the soil conditions of the intended location of the tank. The soil should have a suitable percolation rate (typically > 0.05 m/hr), should be free of contaminants and should not have a high groundwater level.

### 3. Depth and dimensions of the system

The Stormbloc® system is flexible and allows the system designer to consider a range of options not normally available with other storage systems. There are, however, certain limiting factors that need to be considered:

#### 3.1 Depth of Subgrade Layer

The base of the excavation should form a sound working platform and have a sand or gravel subgrade layer to provide a level support base for the system. This should be at least 100 mm deep and be flat and even. Extra care should be given to this subgrade layer for larger installations, and in particular for multilayered designs.

#### 3.2 Lateral Loadings

The maximum depth to the base of the units is limited by the lateral (sideways) pressure that acts on the units. This is due to earth and water pressure and the effects of surcharges on the surface. The exact pressure from groundwater should be assessed on a site-by-site basis if groundwater is present above the base of the units.

#### 3.3 Depth to Base

If the depth to the base of the system is greater than 3.0 m, please contact Hydro International for specific design assistance. Deeper installations may be possible under certain conditions.

#### 3.4 Backfill / Cover

Stormbloc® should be installed with a minimum depth of cover of 0.5 m under landscaped / non-trafficked areas to protect from damage with gardening or agricultural implements, and 0.8 m under light traffic loaded areas.

For installations where the system will be subject to loading from light traffic the depth of cover should allow the dispersion of surface loading (in particular point loads) such that the loading to the top of the Stormbloc® is distributed evenly. The material should be carefully compacted in layers to form a depth to suit the maximum expected loads.

As a general guide the following depths of ground cover above the Stormbloc® modules should be adhered to according to the likely loading.

	Loading	
	Landscaped Area with No Access for Vehicular Traffic	Light Traffic Loading of 2.5 t
Coverage C (m)	≥0.5 m	≥0.8 m
Installation Depth D (m)	D ≤ 3.0	D ≤ 3.0
Height H of System (m)	0.36 ≤ H ≤ 2.01	0.36 ≤ H ≤ 2.01
Groundwater	None	None

Table 3 - Stormbloc® loading parameters.

**The actual loading rate on the modules should always be checked by the system designer.**

The material used for the construction above the Stormbloc® system should be selected according to the surface loadings. A non-angular granular material (nominally 100 mm thick) should be used immediately next to the geotextile or membrane surrounding the system so as to protect it from puncturing. Alternatively a geotextile fleece may be used.

### 3.4 Gradient

Stormbloc® can be laid to a gradient to aid the flow of stormwater through the system. Stormbloc® has, however, been designed and developed to provide resistance to loads applied predominantly in the vertical plane. Laying Stormbloc® to a gradient will therefore slightly reduce the transient and long term loads that the system can withstand. Gradients of 1:100 should generally not be exceeded.

### 3.5 Flotation

If it is necessary to install a Stormbloc® system within the groundwater table then flotation needs to be considered. In simple terms, there needs to be a greater force acting over the system (ie. the weight of the backfill) to compensate for the up-thrust caused by buoyancy. This should be checked by a suitably qualified and experienced engineer.

If the system is installed within the groundwater table it is advisable that encapsulation of the system is carried out to ensure the system is 100% watertight. Failure to do so could reduce the available storage capacity of the Stormbloc® system.

## 4. Designing the Stormbloc® tank

A completed Stormbloc® tank comprises of 6 different components:

- 4.1 Stormbloc® Blocks
- 4.2 Pipe Adaptors
- 4.3 Access Chambers
- 4.4 Catchpits
- 4.5 Inlet and Outlets
- 4.6 Geotextiles and Geomembranes

### 4.1 Stormbloc® Blocks

The main infiltration or storage tank is comprised of Stormbloc® modules in a configuration to suit the location. A single half block, 0.8 m x 0.8 m x 0.33 m, holds 0.220 m<sup>3</sup> of stormwater and so the design should incorporate a sufficient number of blocks to provide the required volume.

A layer of base plates should be laid directly onto the geotextile or membrane.

### Example:

If 88 m<sup>3</sup> is required then the number of modules to be used can be calculated as follows:

$$88 \div 0.22 = 400$$

400 No. Stormbloc® half blocks should be used.

### Configuration options:

#### Option 1:

16 m x 16 m x 0.360 m (20 half blocks long, 20 half blocks wide, and 1 half block and 1 x base plate deep)

#### Option 2:

8 m x 16 m x 0.69 m (10 half blocks long, 20 half blocks wide, and 2 half blocks and 1 x base plate deep)

## 4.2 Pipe adaptors

Stormbloc® blocks should always be orientated so that the side with support columns flush with the edge of the block are on the outside edge of the tank. This will prevent the membrane from pulling into the tank. Where pipe connections are required adaptors are provided depending on the size of pipe used.



Figure 4 - Stormbloc® showing inside and outside edges.

Stormbloc® Connection Adaptors DN150, DN225 and DN300/450 are available for a direct connection to a Stormbloc® Extra block with a side plate or a Stormbloc® Inspect within the tank. Pipes cannot directly connect to Stormbloc® blocks.

The DN300/450 step adaptor simply replaces the side plate on the Stormbloc® Extra block where a pipe connection needs to be made.

Smaller adaptors for DN150 and DN225 attach to the side plate itself. The adaptors can be fitted into any of the four quadrants to suit the level of the incoming pipe. These adaptors attach to the Stormbloc® Extra side plate itself.



Figure 5 - Stormbloc® Extra DN300/450 pipe adaptor.



Figure 6 - a row of Stormbloc® with a Stormbloc® Extra in the centre to facilitate a pipe connection



Figure 7 - DN150 pipe adaptor

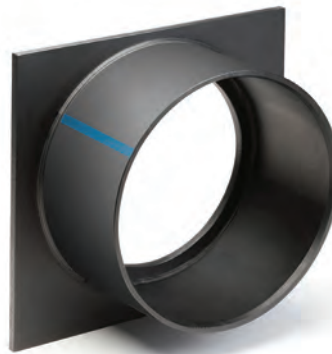


Figure 8 - DN225 pipe adaptor

### 4.3 Stormbloc® Inspect modules

The Stormbloc® Inspect offers an unrivalled level of accessibility to any Stormbloc® installation. This modular access chamber, can be installed within a Stormbloc® Extra row inserted in the Stormbloc® tank to facilitate access for CCTV and cleaning. It has identical dimensions to a Stormbloc® Extra module and so can be easily incorporated into the layout of the infiltration or storage system.

Each Stormbloc® Inspect module offers an integrated cutting matrix which makes it possible to have direct access to the inspection tunnels on the Stormbloc® Extra modules for connection of inlet and outlet pipes to the system at any point.

#### Advantages:

- Option to include a sand trap to catch and collect sediment which can then be easily removed during maintenance.
- Same dimensions as the Stormbloc® Extra modules.
- Can be integrated within all Stormbloc® installations.
- The volume of Stormbloc® Inspect contributes to the required storage capacity.
- High and low level inlet connections possible.
- Can accept inlet / outlet connections up to 450 mm internal diameter.
- Enables optimum accessibility for inspection and maintenance.
- Excellent access to the installation via 500 mm internal diameter extension shaft to ground level.
- Reduces the need for separate manhole chambers.
- The use of a standard vented manhole cover in conjunction with the Stormbloc® Inspect unit removes the need for separate ventilation structures.
- Reduces installation time.
- Reduces capital costs on overall project.

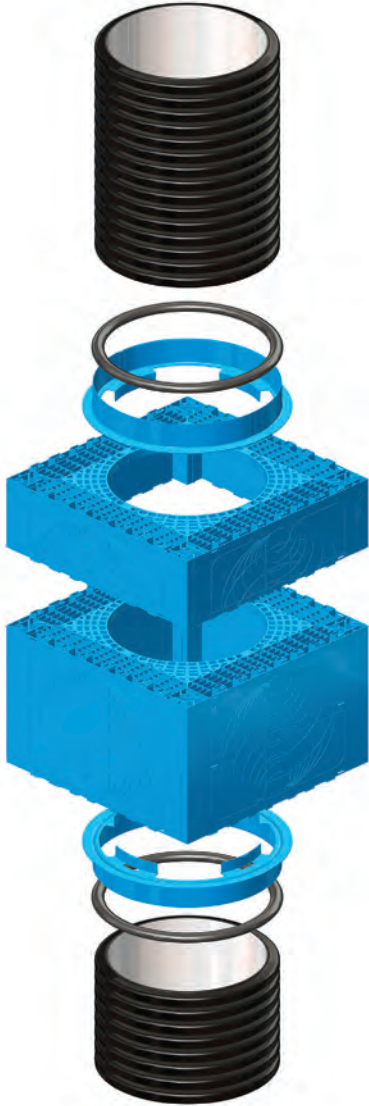


Figure 9 - Stormbloc® Inspect

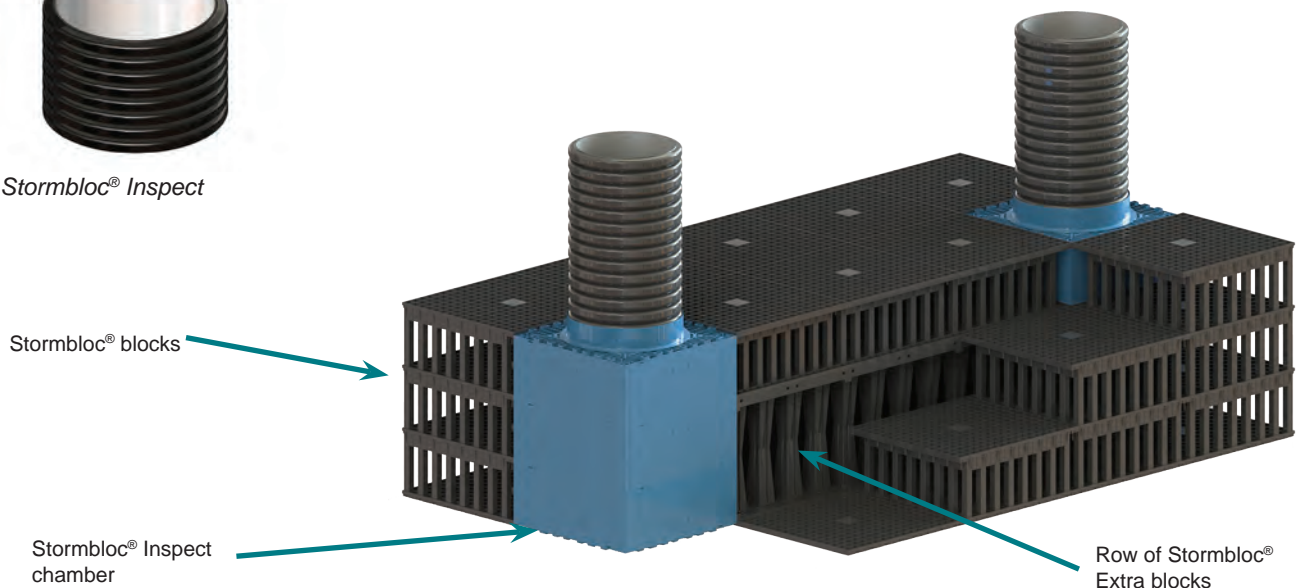


Figure 10 - Stormbloc® tank with Stormbloc® Inspect chamber and Stormbloc® Extra row to give access for CCTV and cleaning.

#### 4.4 Catchpits

The Stormbloc® system is directly accessible for maintenance and inspection via channels formed by Stormbloc® Extra blocks. Access to these tunnels should be provided from a suitable location on the surface, such as via access chambers, manholes, rodding points or Stormbloc® Inspect chambers.

Traditional catchpits or silt traps are not very effective at preventing finer particles from entering any system and any trapped material can often be re-entrained during subsequent storm events and passed into the infiltration or storage media. It is, however, still good practice to include catchpits / silt traps prior to any infiltration or storage system. Any chambers or manholes immediately upstream of a Stormbloc® installation should preferably be built as catchpits or silt traps to capture larger or settleable material. Our Stormbloc® Inspect chambers have the option of including a sand trap, reducing the need for catchpits or silt traps ahead of the system.

If required a complete treatment train approach can be provided with the use of the [Downstream Defender® Select](#), [Up-Flo™ Filter](#) and [Hydro Biofilter™](#) products which remove a wide range of pollutants including floatable debris, sediments, nutrients, metals, oils, grease organics and bacteria (see below).



Figure 11 - An example of a Stormwater Management System.

#### 4.5 Inlet, outlet and vent pipe requirements

The size and number of pipes being connected to the system should be sufficient to be able to convey the maximum expected flow rates from the site into the modules without restriction. Typically the inlet pipes (and outlet pipes for an on-line storage system) will be connected to the lower tunnel on the modules and a vent pipe will be connected to the upper tunnel.

A vent allows displaced air to escape the Stormbloc® system. Adequate venting must be provided to the Stormbloc® structure, either through high level pipe connections between the units, through direct venting to the atmosphere or via Stormbloc® Inspect chambers which render separate venting systems unnecessary provided ventilated covers are used.

If the system does not include a Stormbloc® Inspect Chamber or high level pipe, a ventilation plate is available for this purpose. As a general rule of thumb the number of 100 mm diameter vent pipes required should equal the number of inlet pipes entering the Stormbloc® system.



## 4.6 Geotextile and membrane protection

Depending upon the application, the entire system should be wrapped with either a suitable geotextile (for infiltration) or an impermeable membrane (for storage / attenuation). There is a great degree of variation in the physical properties of available geotextiles and membranes, which should be selected according to specific site conditions.

For installations where there is a risk of contaminants within the surrounding ground or where the groundwater level is above the base of the system advice on suitable membrane with welded joints should be sought from a specialist supplier (please contact Hydro International directly if you require a list of independent membrane specialists who have previous experience of Stormbloc® installations).

## 5. Maintenance instructions

Where Stormbloc® Inspect and Stormbloc® Extra are included, the tank can be inspected via CCTV camera and flushed through.

A catchpit chamber immediately upstream of the system is recommended as this will reduce the amount of silt entering the installation. For larger installations it may also be advantageous to add further catchpits to the system design or an advanced vortex silt trap such as the [Downstream Defender® Select](#) by Hydro International. The collection sump(s) should not be allowed to overfill as this will lead to silt carry-over into the Stormbloc® modules.

As all schemes are different, the frequency at which the catchpit(s) should be emptied will need to be determined on site. For small soakaways and individual infiltration tanks it will generally only be necessary to ensure that the catchpits / silt traps are free from debris such as leaves or sediment. It is recommended that any system be inspected no less frequently than at monthly intervals for the first 3 months and thereafter at 6 monthly intervals. In addition, it is suggested that the installation is inspected immediately following the first storm event, whenever this should occur post installation.

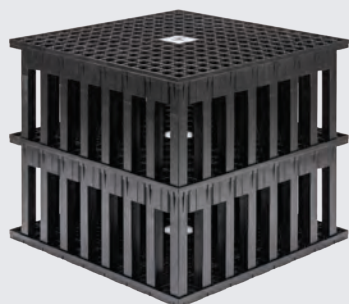
Individual maintenance schedules should be drawn up using the information obtained from the initial inspections. It should also be noted that more regular inspections may be required should the catchpit(s) fill more frequently and/or if the initial inspections reveal that maintenance / cleaning will be required more regularly than at six month intervals.

Flushing of the system can be achieved using a jetting system with a 120 bar pressure. The jet nozzle should be introduced to the system via the access chamber / manhole and the block channel. The silt should be flushed to the access chamber or catchpit manhole and removed from there.



Figure 12 - Jetting nozzle flushing the system

# The Stormbloc® Optimum range



Stormbloc®



Stormbloc® Extra

	Stormbloc®		Stormbloc® Extra		
Application suitability	Lighter loaded areas, such as landscaped or low traffic areas (cars ≤ 2.5t)		Heavy loaded area and High-traffic areas such as car parks, roads and warehouse yards.		
Maximum installation depth	3 m		4 m		
Cover depth	Landscaped area, no traffic	Light traffic loading ≤ 2.5 t	Landscaped area, no traffic	Light traffic loading ≤ 2.5 t	Roads & HGV loading yards with traffic loading ≤ 44 t
	≥ 0.5 m	≥ 0.8 m	≥ 0.4 m	≥ 0.6 m	≥ 0.8 m
Material	Polypropylene (up to 100% recycled material)		Polypropylene		
	Half block		Full block	Half block	
Length / Width / Height	800 / 800 / 330 mm (Note: for the bottom layer add 30 mm for the base plate)		800 / 800 / 660 mm	800 / 800 / 360 mm	
Nominal block volume	0.230 m <sup>3</sup>		0.422 m <sup>3</sup>	0.230 m <sup>3</sup>	
Nominal storage capacity per unit	0.220 m <sup>3</sup>		0.405 m <sup>3</sup>	0.221 m <sup>3</sup>	
Constructed weight	10 kg (1 element and 1 baseplate)		18.6 kg	13.7 kg	
Porosity	96%		96 %	96%	
Vertical ultimate compressive strength	313 kN/m <sup>2</sup>		420 kN/m <sup>2</sup>	420 kN/m <sup>2</sup>	
Horizontal ultimate compressive strength	93 kN/m <sup>2</sup>		165 kN/m <sup>2</sup>	225 kN/m <sup>2</sup>	

Tel: +44 (0)1275 337937 [stormwater@hydro-int.com](mailto:stormwater@hydro-int.com)

Hydro International  
Unit 2, Rivermead Court, Kenn Business Park  
Windmill Road, Kenn, Clevedon, BS21 6FT

[hydro-int.com](http://hydro-int.com)