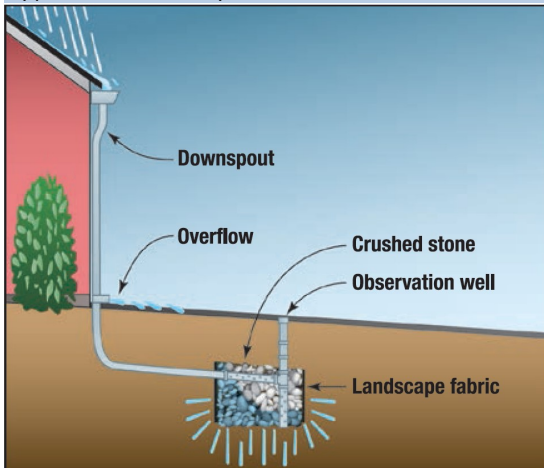


HOW TO MAINTAIN YOUR BURIED DRY WELL

What is a buried dry well?

A dry well is a small underground pit or chamber filled with stone that collects rainwater from roof gutters and allows it to absorb into the surrounding soil. Underground piping connects the dry well to the roof downspout. Dry wells are common on residential lots, where there can be three or more dry wells on one lot. Since most are buried and covered with grass, dry wells can be identified by an observation well cap that is typically around 10 feet from the house.

Typical Buried Dry Well



Who is responsible for this maintenance?

As the property owner, you are responsible for all maintenance of your dry well.

SUGGESTED MAINTENANCE ACTIONS*

MONTHLY

- Inspect your gutters after storms to make sure rainwater properly drains to the dry well.
- Check for any obstruction or blockage of flow along inflow areas or pipes in and out, including trash, debris or sediment.
- Remove weeds and plants that do not belong.
- Check observation well to ensure water is infiltrating properly.
- Ensure observation well cap is securely fastened.

SEASONALLY

- Remove leaves and tree debris from roof gutters.
- Inspect and maintain, or replace components from any damage.
- To prevent damage to your lawn mower and the observation well cap, be sure not to mow over well caps.

AS NEEDED

- Inform contractors working on your property of the location of your dry wells to prevent accidental damage.
- Place gutter guards or screens on top of roof downspouts to filter out leaves and sediment before the rainwater reaches the dry well.

DO NOT:

- Do not remove your dry well or reconfigure your downspouts to direct rainwater elsewhere. If you claimed your dry well for the Stormwater Credit Program, removing or modifying it can result in loss of credit.
- Do not place decks, sheds, or other structures on top of a dry well
- Do not let children remove the observation well cap.

* Please refer to the Maryland Stormwater Design Manual, Volumes I and II for minimum requirements and procedures for maintaining BMPs. This document serves as the official guide for stormwater management principles, methods, and practices in the State of Maryland. Visit <http://bit.ly/MDESMDM>.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN YOUR DRY WELL

An unmaintained dry well may:

- Cause flooding on other areas of your property if the rainwater is not able to flow into the dry well.
- Cause rainwater to pool on the surface and become a breeding ground for mosquitoes and other insects.
- Require more frequent and expensive repairs.

Troubleshooting Issues

Symptom	Possible Cause	Solution
Standing water around the dry well.	If standing water occurs for more than 48 hours, the dry well, filter fabric or underground piping may be clogged.	The gravel or underground piping may need to be cleaned or replaced.
Rainwater is immediately flowing into the overflow downspout at the start of a rainstorm.	The underground pipe or buried gravel may be clogged with sediment or leaf debris.	Remove any visible blockages in the downspout. Add stones at the overflow downspout to prevent erosion.
Rainwater is taking longer than usual to be absorbed by the dry well.	The underground pipe or buried gravel may be clogged with sediment or leaf debris.	Remove any accumulated sediment, vegetation, or other debris. If still clogged after removing debris, remove and clear, or replace gravel and filter fabric. Assess reconstruction/retrofit options if clogging continues.

Recommended timeframes for routine maintenance

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Remove leaves and debris from gutters				•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Remove sediment and debris		•			•			•			•	
Maintain pipes and gutters	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Remove Trash	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Check gutters for ice damage	•	•	•								•	•

Typical Dry Well Profile and Cross-Section (for illustrative purposes only)

