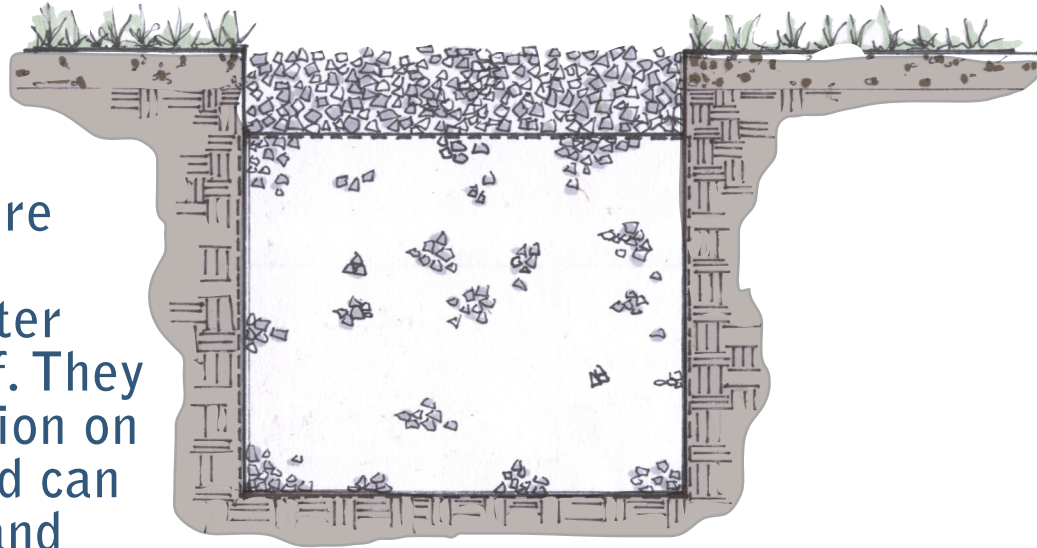


DRY WELL

Dry wells collect and infiltrate roof runoff at gutter downspouts, roof valleys, and other places where large amounts of concentrated water flow off of a roof. They help reduce erosion on your property and can reduce ponding and sitting water.



SIZING AND DESIGN

STEP 1. Determine the best placement for your dry well. This is usually where large amounts of concentrated runoff flow, such as off of a roof valley or at the end of your roof gutter downspout. It is best to observe runoff during a rain storm.

STEP 2. Follow the steps to **Estimate How Much Stormwater Your Property Creates** (page 14) to determine how large to make your dry well. A typical dry well measures about 3' x 3' x 3'.

STEP 3. Clearly mark the boundary of your dry well to identify where you will dig.

INSTALLATION

STEP 1. Dig down 3' within the dry well boundary you marked in step 3 above.

EQUIPMENT & MATERIALS

- ↳ Measuring tape
- ↳ Shovel
- ↳ Crushed stone ($1/2''$ to $1\frac{1}{2}''$ diameter)
- ↳ Non-woven geotextile fabric (or landscape weed fabric for smaller projects)

OPTIONAL

- ↳ Perforated PVC or other plastic piping
- ↳ Splash guard
- ↳ Gutter downspout extension

DRY WELL

STEP 2. Slope the bottom of the dry well away from your house so that water drains away from the foundation.

STEP 3. Extend the life of the dry well by lining the sides with non-woven geotextile fabric.

STEP 4. Fill the dry well hole with 1/2" to 1-1/2" diameter crushed stone to within 3" of the ground surface.

STEP 5. Fold a flap of filter fabric over the top of the dry well.

STEP 6. Cover the filter fabric with additional crushed stone until it is even with the ground surface.

STEP 7. Connect your runoff to the dry well. There are a number of ways to direct runoff to the dry well.

- a. If the dry well is designed to absorb water from a roof valley, no special piping is needed. The drywell should be placed under the roof valley so that runoff can simply run down the valley and land on the surface of the dry well.
- b. If the dry well is designed to absorb water from a roof downspout, you can either extend the downspout to direct runoff to surface of the dry well, or you can extend the downspout, wrap the end of the downspout in filter fabric, and bury the end of the downspout in the drywell. Burying the downspout allow you to cover and seed over the surface of the dry well to make it less noticeable; however, this makes it more difficult to determine if your drywell is working properly. Be sure to inspect your dry well for signs that it is clogged or failing such as ponding at the surface of the drywell or water backing up in your gutters (if your downspout is buried). Parts for extending your dry well can be purchased at your local home improvement store.

DESIGN REFERENCE

Maine Department of Environmental Protection. [*Conservation Practices for Homeowners*](#). Fact Sheet Series. May 2006.