YOU CAN Control Your Roofwater

DRYWELL

DESCRIPTION: an underground stone or other storage system that can capture, hold and infiltrate water, especially roof runoff into the surrounding ground.

TIME/COMPLEXITY: 8 hours, moderate

COST: moderate $100 to $600 for excavation, stone and piping system

TOOLS/MATERIALS: Small excavator, 4 inch perforated pvc pipe, elbows, caps, geotextile fabric, clean AASHTO 57 stone.

STEPS:

1. **LOCATION:** The drywell should be located below a down spout, but at least 10 feet from a building foundation. The drywell should also not be near a septic tank or drainage field. Locate any existing utilities before digging by performing a ONE-CALL*and contact your municipality to see if any permits are required.

2. **EXCAVATE THE WELL:** Depending on size, the well can be hand dug, but it would certainly go faster with a small excavator. The soil that comes out of the hole should be carefully placed, seeded and mulched where it will not cause harm to another property.

3. **LINE THE WELL:** A single layer of geotextile fabric should line the walls top and floor of a drywell to keep the soil from moving into the voids in the stone.

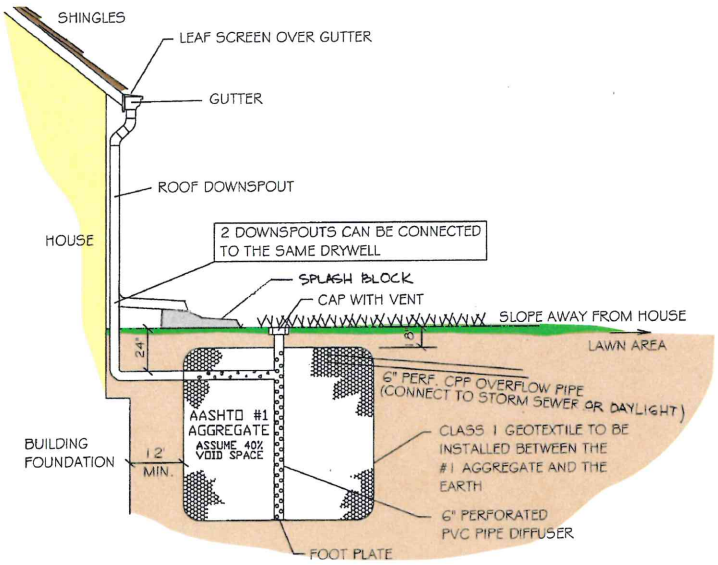
4. **INSTALL THE PIPING SYSTEM:** A perforated pipe running horizontally through the stone helps distribute runoff. This pipe can be connected directly to a downspout if there are no trees to clog the gutters, but it is better to allow the downspout water to soak into the drywell from the surface so no leaves enter the system. A tee connection in the well allows for a vertical observation pipe to verify the system is not clogged. A second horizontal pipe should be placed in the drywell near the surface and allowed to daylight to act as an overflow in case the drywell is oversaturated. The overflow pipe outlets to a safe area where it will not cause harm. Contact your municipality to approve the location.

5. **BACKFILL THE WELL WITH STONE:** Once the piping system is in place, the stone can be backfilled into the hole in layers, and tamped lightly with each layer, being careful not to damage the pipe system.

6. **FINISHING TOUCHES:** The drywell can stop short of the surface with one layer of fabric and 6 inches of soil and grass seeding or other landscaping to finish it off.

Important Thing To Remember:

A drywell should be located below a source of stormwater runoff like a downspout. It should not be located near a septic tank or drainfield.



6' LONG X 6' WIDE X 3.5' DEEP
TYPICAL DRY WELL DETAIL
(AGGREGATE VOLUME TO BE NO LESS THAN 126 CU. FT.)
NO SCALE

Digging and backfilling a dry well for a roof downspout.

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* 811 Know what's below. Call before you dig.