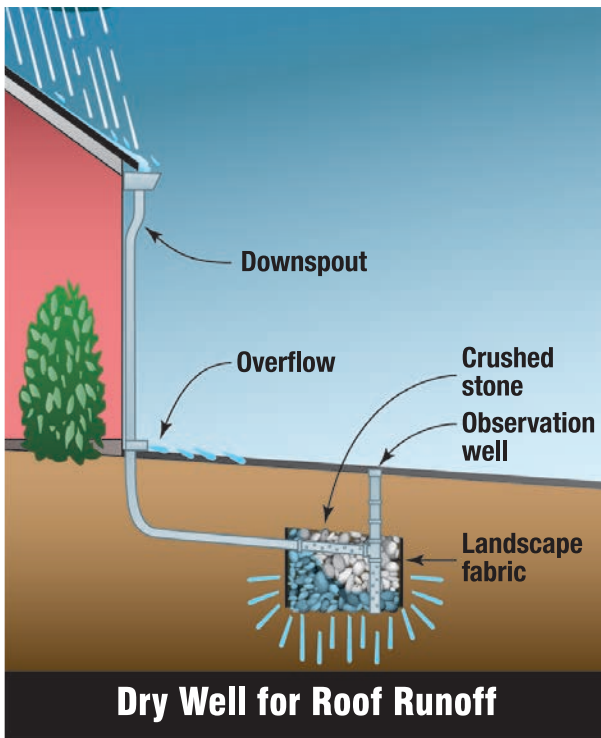


# Dry Well Maintenance



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## What is a dry well?

A dry well, or seepage pit, is a small underground pit filled with stone that collects stormwater from roof gutters and allows it to absorb into the surrounding soil. Underground piping can connect the dry well to the roof downspout. Dry wells are commonly used on residential lots.

**A buried dry well or seepage pit needs simple maintenance to keep stormwater flowing into it:**

- **Remove leaves and tree debris from flowpaths, gutters, and downspouts.**

## Maintenance you can perform:

### *As needed:*

- ✓ Inspect your gutters after storms to make sure stormwater drains properly to the dry well.
- ✓ Inform contractors working on your property of the dry well's location to prevent accidentally damaging it.
- ✓ Place gutter guards or screens on top of roof downspouts to filter out leaves and sediment before the stormwater reaches the dry well.

### *Seasonally:*

- ✓ Remove leaves and tree debris from flow paths and roof gutters.
- ✓ Repair any damage to gutters or downspouts from snow or ice.



### *Avoid:*

- ✗ Don't let the dry well overflow toward your building foundation.
- ✗ Don't mow over the observation well cap.
- ✗ Don't place decks or other structures on top of the dry well.
- ✗ Don't let children play near the dry well or seepage pit.



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## Why is it important to maintain your dry well?

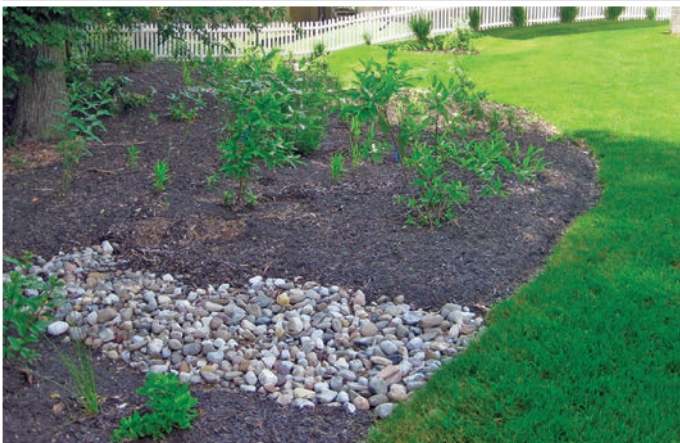
An unmaintained dry well may:

- Cause flooding on other areas of your property if the stormwater is not able to flow into the dry well
- Require complete replacement of the facility, which can be very expensive

By maintaining your dry well, you are doing your part to protect your local streams and the Chesapeake Bay.

## Recommended maintenance checklist

- Remove Leaves and Debris from Gutters*  
April through November
- Maintain Pipes and Gutters*  
As needed
- Check Gutters for Ice Damage*  
During winter months



Residential dry well



Clean gutters will help keep debris from clogging your dry well

## Problem solving . . .

### Standing water around the dry well

**POSSIBLE CAUSE:** The dry well or underground piping may be clogged.

**SOLUTION:** The gravel or underground piping may need to be cleaned or replaced.

### Rain immediately flows into the overflow downspout at the beginning of a storm

**POSSIBLE CAUSE:** The underground pipe or buried gravel may be clogged with sediment or leaf debris.

**SOLUTION:** Remove any visible blockages.

If you have questions or need more information, please visit [cbf.org](http://cbf.org).