ANNAPOLIS | MD

Stormwater Maintenance Fact Sheet

PROTECTING AND ENHANCING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT THROUGH COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

DRY WELLS

Dry wells are normally gravel-filled trenches or pits capable of storing water on a temporary basis so as to allow enough time for the water to seep into the ground. Unlike most systems that incorporate vegetation to help address water management issues, dry wells rely heavily on the natural soil to take in water and control pollution. While these systems are capable of removing pollutants from stormwater, it is not advisable to use them in situations where contamination is very high. Dry wells are conducive for treating runoff from small areas preferably less than five acres.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO MAINTIN 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.

Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works

Who is responsible for this maintenance?

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

Dry Well Schematic

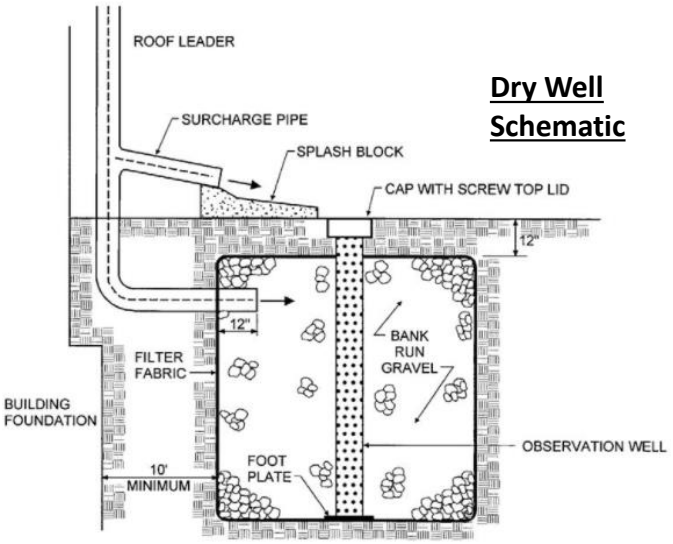

Diagram of a dry well
(Source: Center for Watershed Protection)

MAINTENANCE & MONITORING

FREQUENCY*	ACTIVITY*
After storm events	• Observation wells should be inspected to make sure water is draining as expected (drainage should be complete within 48 hours after rain events).
Quarterly	• Ensure drainage area is stable and repair areas affected by erosion. • Remove all debris from downspout channels leading to the system.
Monthly	• Check and remove any obstruction or blockage of flow along inflow areas or pipes in/out. • Ensure the observation well cap is securely fastened.
Semi-annually	• Remove leaves and tree debris from roof gutters.
Annually	• Remove and replace as necessary filter fabric, gravel, and top soil if percolation is slow.
* Follow manufacturer's guidelines	

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https://www.annapolis.gov/450/Stormwater-Management

This fact sheet provides SWM practices information and maintenance requirements that are general in nature. Additional maintenance may be required based on the unique nature of your stormwater management practice.

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 rain storm	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.

INVASIVE PLANTS

"Invasive" describes a species that, when introduced into an ecosystem aggressively establishes itself at the expense of native plants or animals (*Maryland Department of Natural Resources*). Regularly inspect vegetation and remove invasive/nuisance plant species. For more information on invasive plants in Maryland, please go to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources website at: http://dnr.maryland.gov/invasives/Pages/default.aspx.

Dry well prior to going into the ground (Source: irrigationtech.com)