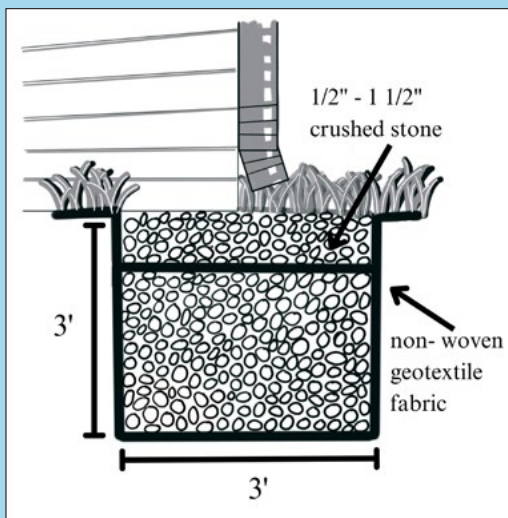


# Dry Wells



Drywells should be placed in areas that receive concentrated flow of runoff such as below gutter downspouts. A stabilized outlet can be constructed to handle overflow (bottom image).



Encapsulating the crushed stone water storage area with filter fabric prolongs the life of the drywell by helping to prevent clogging of the void spaces.

## Purpose:

Dry wells are stable areas for rainwater from your rooftop to collect and soak into the ground without disturbing the underlying soil and causing erosion. They are generally used at gutter downspouts or in situations where you want to encourage water to seep into the ground.

## Materials:

Crushed stone can be purchased at your local gravel pit. Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District for suppliers of non-woven geotextile fabric. Other geotextiles, including landscaping weed barriers, can be substituted for smaller projects.

- About 1 cubic yard of 1/2 to 1 1/2" crushed stone
- Filter fabric at least 3 feet wide

## Tools:

Heavy duty scissors or utility knife to cut fabric as needed, shovel or trowel

## Installation:

1. Dig a pit about 3' x 3' x 3' in size underneath the gutter downspout.
2. Slope the bottom of the drywell away from the house so that water does not drain towards the foundation.
3. Line the sides and bottom of the pit with non-woven geotextile fabric.
4. Back-fill with 1/2" to 1 1/2" crushed stone to within 3" of the ground level.
5. Fold a flap of filter fabric over the top of the dry well and top off with additional stone.

Note: Drywells work best in sand and gravelly soils that can quickly disperse a large volume of water. They should not be used near structures with improperly sealed foundations, as flooding may result. If flooding is of concern, place the drywell 6' away from the base of the foundation and use a gutter extension.

## Maintenance:

Periodically remove accumulated debris and weeds from the surface of the drywell. The drywell will eventually clog over time and the stone will need to be removed and washed to clean out the accumulated sediment and debris.

Scan here for  
more information



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**Portland  
Water  
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From Sebago Lake to Casco Bay