



# Drywells

## Controlling Stormwater Runoff

Lake friendly living  
means using lakeshore  
BEST MANAGEMENT  
PRACTICES

### BMP

Drywells: Acceptable best management practice for addressing stormwater runoff from impervious surface under the Shoreland Protection Act (Chapter 49A of Title 10, § 1441 *et seq.*).

### LAKE BENEFITS

Redirecting stormwater runoff from the roofs of structures to a drywell allows for water to infiltrate into the ground. This redirection reduces the erosive potential of stormwater sheet flow from entering the lake.

### MATERIALS

Downspout elbow, downspout extension, splash block, geotextile cloth, crushed stone, and gravel.


**Description:** A drywell is a subsurface storage facility that temporarily stores and infiltrates stormwater runoff from the roofs of residential and small structures. Roof leaders connect directly into a drywell, which may either be an excavated pit filled with uniformly graded stone wrapped in geotextile, a prefabricated storage chamber, or pipe segment.

**Purpose:** Drywells collect and infiltrate runoff at gutter downspouts and other places where large quantities of concentrated water flow off rooftops. Redirecting rooftop flow to areas of vegetation or a rain garden may also be a alternative to where stormwater runoff is directed to. These systems help control erosive runoff on your property and reduce wear on your house by minimizing back splash.

**How to:** Drywells should at a minimum measure about 3' x 3' x 3', be lined with non-woven geotextile fabric, and back-filled with 1/2" to 1 1/2" crushed stone. Make sure to dispose of the removed soil in areas where it will not wash into the lake.

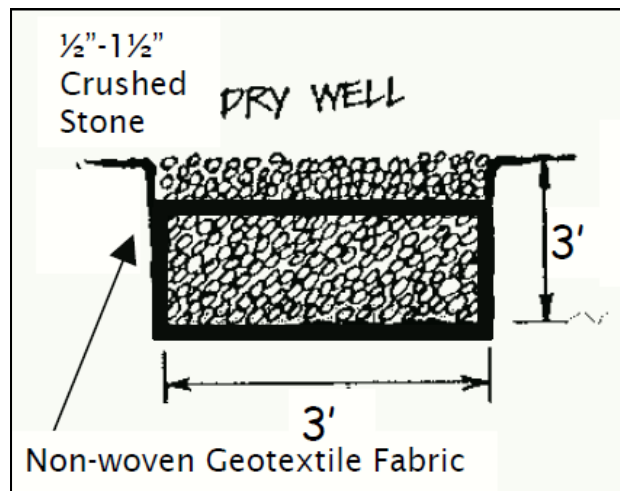
Extend the life of the dry well by lining the sides with non-woven geotextile fabric and filling to within 3" of the ground level with stone. Fold a flap of filter fabric over the top of the dry well and top off with additional stone.

**Note:** Drywells work best in sand and gravelly soils that can quickly disperse a large volume of water. They should not be used on 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.

**Maintenance:**  To maintain these structures, periodically remove accumulated debris and plants from the surface. Non-woven geotextile fabric will extend the life of these structures, however, they will eventually clog over time and the stone will need to be removed and washed to clean out the accumulated sediment and debris.



Source: Maine DEP



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