

The Borough of Hightstown
Environmental Commission
148 North Main Street
Hightstown, NJ 08520

Drywell installation

Drywells are a simple solution to control storm water runoff. They create an area where water from the impervious surface (roof, parking area, etc) can be collected and released into the surrounding soils. The following gives a brief description of the installation techniques. As a rule of thumb, 100 square feet of roof or drive way (10'x10') will produce approximately 60 gallons of water in a 1 inch rainfall. The average drywell as described below with 20 feet of flo-well piping will accommodate approximately 400 gallons of water.

1. **Layout the area and piping diagram.** This is important to determine the amount of material you will need. Choose an area for the drywell that is lower in elevation than your impervious surface area.



2. **Call your local utility company and have all the utilities marked out.**

Call Before You Dig!

Careless digging can damage underground utilities, causing disruption of vital services, property damage and even possible injury. Taking the proper steps to avoid damage can prevent expensive repairs, project delays and costly fines.

At least **three business days**, prior to outdoor construction or digging, contractors and property owners – whoever is excavating – must call New Jersey One Call at **811 or 800-272-1000** and take the following steps:

- Wait for the site to be marked with paint, flags or stakes. Yellow indicates the presence of underground natural gas lines.
- Respect the marks and dig with care.
- Hand dig within two feet of buried piping and facilities.
- Be mindful that inclement weather may wash away the painted markings.

Know what's below and call before you dig - **811** or **800-272-1000**. It's **FREE** and it's the **LAW**.

If damage occurs to natural gas lines, no matter how minor, report it immediately to 911 and call the operator of that gas line.

3. **Install drainage boxes at the base of each downspout.** Be sure the top of the box is level with the existing ground.



4. **Trench and install piping to drywell location**



5. **Dig hole for drywell approximately twice the size needed for the drywell.** An example is if the drywell is two feet in diameter; dig the hole 4 feet in diameter. The hole should be at least 12 inches deeper than the overall height of the drywell to allow for 6 inches of crushed stone below the well and 6 inches of soil on top of the well. Cover inside of hole with landscape filter fabric prior to installing drywell and gravel, Fill area around the drywell with clean gravel to cover the entire area. Leave approximately 4 inches on top for soil.



6. **Fill trenches with clean soil, grade and seed entire area.** Your drywell is complete and will provide years of service with very little maintenance. You should clean off the top of the drainage box grate on a regular basis, and once per year remove the grate and clean out any debris that may have accumulated in the bottom of the drainage box.

For more information:

- Home Depot stocks most of the parts to complete your system
- Ndspro.com for piping and drywell supplies
- Rainharvest.com (for information on larger systems)
- greenmanual.rutgers.edu/newcommercial/strategies/rainbarrels.pdf