

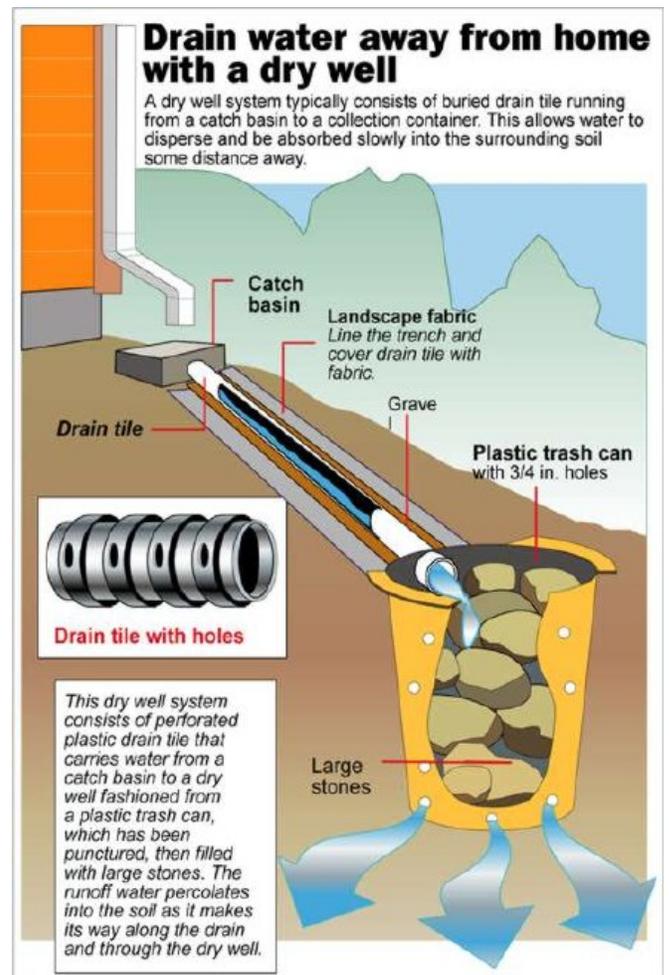
WATER DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS

Dry Well

A dry well helps catch water runoff and disperse it slowly over a period of days. The water runoff can be directed, as the water is directed in the picture to the right, or it can simply sit and collect water runoff at a low point in the yard. Installing several dry wells is also a possibility.

Tips for installing dry wells:

- Think about the direction of the water's flow – will your diversion of water possibly cause a greater problem for a neighbor? Might it lead to road flooding? Will it flood drain lines from a septic tank? The best case scenario is to divert water to an existing ditch, creek or other water source.
- Note the use of landscape fabric in the picture to the right, this is used to prevent soil and silt from infiltrating and clogging the drain line.
- Any drain tiles (drain lines) will have to be sloped away from the home at a minimum grade of 6 inches for the first 10 feet.



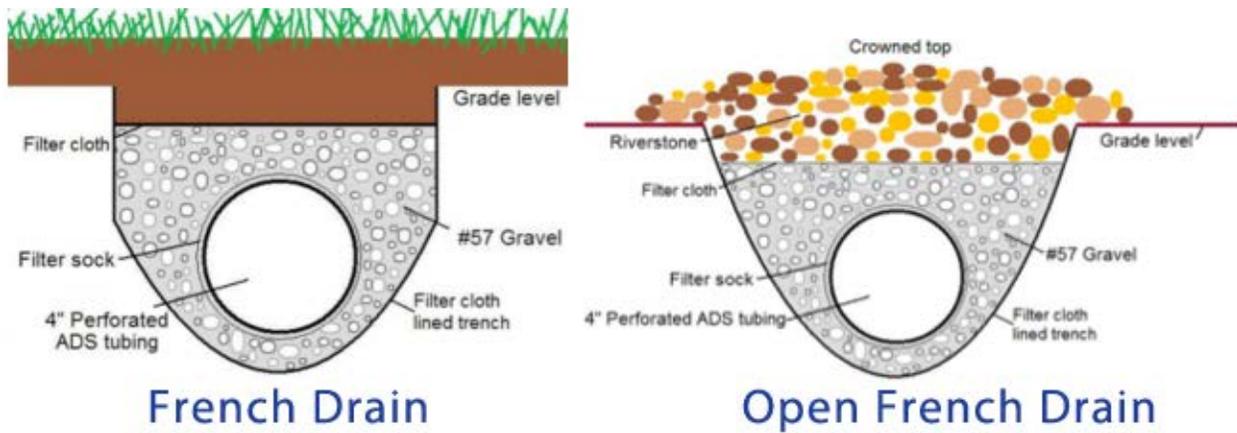
French Drain

A French drain is a water diverter – a drain slowly collects water which seeps into tubing that is set into the drain and runs to a location at a lower grade.

As with the dry well a French drain needs a filter cloth (landscape fabric) above and below the drain tubing to prevent dirt from clogging the tube. The drain tubing, which can be perforated rigid PVC or flexible black plastic, is surrounded by gravel. The diagram below specifies #57 gravel but any larger sized gravel allowing water to seep in is sufficient. Unlike dry wells, a French drain can be sloped 1 inch for every 8 feet.

French drains are not just for the collection of water, they won't have the capacity of a dry well, so they will need to be graded toward a lower area, away from other homes, that has good drainage. It is not

recommended to install French drains alongside the foundation of a home, these will only retain water & moisture around the foundation of the home and may make any moisture problems in a home worse.



Raise the Yard

Any combination of organic material can, over time, significantly raise the level of the yard. This will allow additional water runoff to infiltrate a more porous surface than, for instance, clay or hard packed soil. Very porous organic material will need to be contained behind a wall or within a bed to make certain it will not wash away.

This is a potential solution for low-lying areas of yards where water pools. Homeowners with septic drain lines at a higher elevation than a composting area are strongly urged not to use that compost for planting anything edible.