



Stormwater Management: What You Need To Know About Dry Wells

What is a drywell?

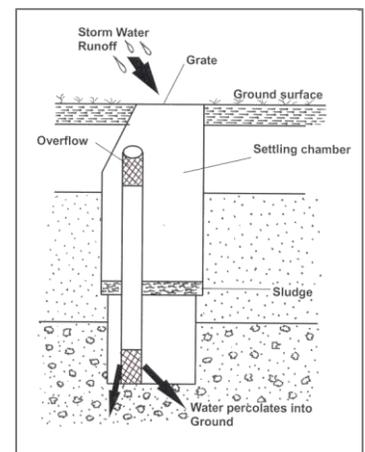
A bored, drilled, or driven shaft or hole whose depth is greater than its width.

Why use drywells?

Drywells play an important role in stormwater management. They take water from retention basins, the street, or parking lots and allow it to quickly infiltrate into the ground water. Without dry wells, storm water from high intensity storms could cause flooding.

How do dry wells work?

Stormwater enters the dry well through a grate at the surface. The water then enters the settling chamber where sediment and debris settle to the bottom. The water flows from the bottom of the settling chamber into overflow pipe into the ground.



Are they regulated?

Yes. Drywells are regulated through Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). Arizona state law requires all new, existing or abandoned drywells be registered with ADEQ.

Is there a downside to dry wells?

There is a downside to dry wells. Because there are pollutants such as gas and oil from cars, and other chemicals such as fertilizer from yards and chemicals from pool backwashing on the street, when it rains these can be washed into the dry well which can then act as a “straight shot” into the ground water. Also, a clogged dry well can be the perfect place for mosquitoes to breed. This is why it is important to properly maintain vehicles, limit chemical use, and be aware of stormwater issues.

Only Rain in the Storm Drain