A Dry Well or soak well is an underground structure that disposes of unwanted water, most commonly storm water runoff, by dissipating it into the ground where it merges with the local groundwater. A dry well may be either a structural chamber and/or an excavated pit filled with gravel. A dry well is a passive structure. Water flows through it under the influence of gravity. A dry well receives water from one or more entry pipes or channels at its top and discharges the same water through a number of small exit openings distributed over a larger surface area in the side(s) and bottom of the dry well.

Well maintained residential dry well

Some dry wells deliberately incorporate a large storage capacity, so that they can accept a large amount of water very quickly and then dissipate it gradually over time, a method that is compatible with the intermittent nature of rainfall.

Dry Wells are important because they:

- **reduce runoff,**
- **require very minimal area,**
- **easy to maintain, and**
- **can be used for groundwater recharge.**

Inform Yourself!

- **If you live in a residential community, your Home Owners Association (HOA) dues may help pay for dry well maintenance.**
- **If you don't have an HOA, look for information on your recorded plat and deeds found on the Warren County Auditor's website - www.wcauditor.org**

Dry Well Maintenance:

A consistent maintenance program is the best way to ensure that a dry well continues to perform its' intended water quality functions. A program should contain:

- Easy access for inspection & maintenance
- Regular inspections
- Debris & vegetation management
- Inspections for clogged filter screens
- Routine street sweeping to prevent excess sediment
- Sediment removal to prevent buildup / clogging

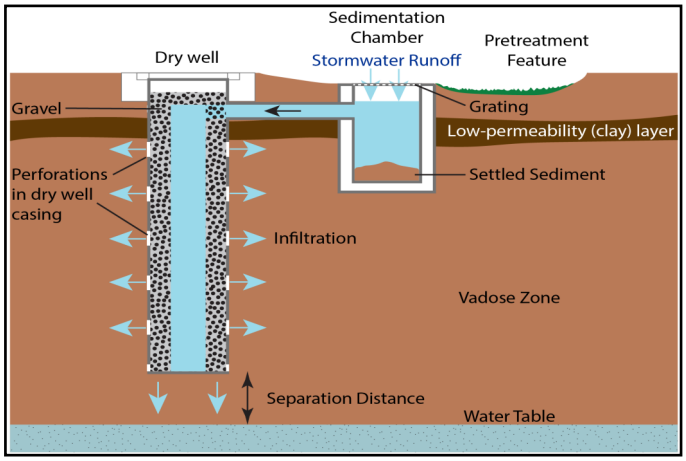
Learn more about water protecting practices you can do at home.

Visit the District's Website at https://www.warrenswcd.com

Dry Wells at a Glance

Dry wells help to improve storm water drainage by providing a fast and direct route for rainwater to drain deep into the underlying sediment. Drywells are useful in areas that have more urban or residential development due to the reduced natural infiltration capacities.

Example of a well-maintained dry well



An example of how a dry well functions

Including dry well practices into the design of a new subdivision helps to amplify the accomplishments of other stormwater best management practices that are already in place.

Water-related benefits such as reducing runoff flow rates and improving surface water quality helps to reduce overall flood risk for a community.

What does Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District (WCSWCD) do about Dry Wells?

WCSWCD inspects dry wells and basins and it's features on a regular basis or during sediment and erosion control inspections.

The storm water control features are part of a system with catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels and storm drains that work in conjunction to manage and convey the storm water of the County.

In the instance a basin poses a potential maintenance concern, WCSWCD will check plans and consult the engineer's office, developer of the site or contact the associated municipality if we feel as if there might be deficiencies.

Tagging catch basins for education.

Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District

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