



## Did you know...

Chapter III, Article XI, Section 11.15 (Drywell Policy) of the Town's Unified Land Development Code states:

*"It is the owner's responsibility to maintain drywells . . . Drywells that cease to drain a project within a 36-hour period are to be replaced with new ones where alternate methods of drainage are still not available."*

1. It is important that property owners maintain their dry wells to ensure the efficient disposal of storm water.
2. Drywells should be inspected and cleaned annually by a dry well services company to ensure proper operation.
3. In addition to regular inspections, dry well performance should be monitored more frequently during the monsoon season.
4. If drainage appears slow, or if water is standing for more than 36 hours, the system should be inspected by a dry well service company.

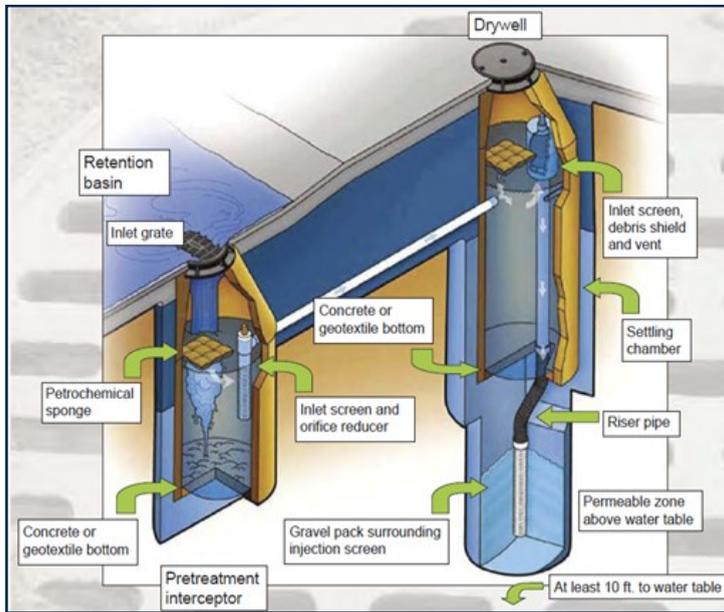


Environmental Compliance  
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## Drywells

[www.gilbertaz.gov/environment](http://www.gilbertaz.gov/environment)



### Things you can do to keep drywells free from pollution:

- Dumping of excess chemicals like oil, paint, cleaners, etc., on the ground or gutter is illegal. Chemicals should be taken to the **Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility** for proper disposal (2224 E. Queen Creek Road).
- Irrigation runoff containing pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers pollutes the stormwater and drywell. **Do not overuse these products.**
- Detergent and oil from car leaks or engine washing should be caught in a **drip pan** or performed at a **self-serve car wash** because they have an underground oil/water separator that collects the dirt and oil for proper disposal.

### Drywells can worsen environmental contamination, here is how:

**If not properly maintained the drywell design can serve as a “straight-shot” conduit for ground water contamination.**

Drywells use a filtration system that includes an upper settling chamber with an injection pipe and a lower rock fill section. As water drains into the drywell, the settling chamber slowly fills with water, allowing sediment to settle out and become trapped in the bottom of the chamber. The water then drains to an overflow (injection) pipe, is released to the bottom of the drywell, and slowly percolates into the water table.

In urban areas, stormwater frequently carries significant amounts of petroleum products, pesticides, and other chemicals washed from streets and landscaped areas. Drywells are designed to prevent this pollution from reaching the water table but will not be able to do so if not properly maintained. Stormwater containing pollutants may drain into drywells and percolate into the ground water.

### Further Questions?

- For general information on drywells, contact the Town’s Environmental Compliance section at **(480)503-6400**.
- For information on the placement or replacement of drywells, contact the Town’s Development Services Department at **(480) 503-6700**.
- For regulatory information on drywells, contact the ADEQ Drywell Unit at **(602)771-4686**.
- For general information on the Town’s mosquito control program, contact the wastewater division at **(480)503-6400**.
- For general information on mosquito control, call Maricopa County Vector Control at **(602) 506-0700**.



### What is a drywell?

A bored, drilled, or driven shaft or hole with depth greater than width. A drywell is designed specifically to alleviate flooding and the dispose of stormwater.

### Why do we use drywells?

Drywells are primarily used as a means of flood control here in Gilbert. With the intense, short duration storms we have it is important to get the stormwater off the streets and away from buildings. Drywells are meant to safely and quickly dispose of floodwaters by acting as a path for ground infiltration.

A drywell that is not functioning properly can lead to improper drainage and flooding of the area surrounding the drywell. The resulting standing water can become a breeding ground for mosquitos.

**Drywells are regulated by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). Arizona state law requires that all new, existing, or abandoned dry wells be registered with ADEQ.**



**Keeping stormwater clean & protecting our surface water is a job for all of us.**

Report Illegal Dumping or Find More Information at:  
[www.gilbertaz.gov/environment](http://www.gilbertaz.gov/environment)



*Only Rain in the Storm Drain*