



Stormwater Facilities & Maintenance

Drywells & Catch Basins

The typical catch basin or drywell consists of a grate at the surface of the road, with an underground concrete tank beneath it. Drywell tanks are perforated to allow for gradual percolation out of the structure. Stormwater collects in the sump allowing sediment to settle to the bottom. The cleaner water at the top then flows through pipes to a variety of destinations: into swales, a stormwater pond, or directly into a river or stream. These facilities are fundamental in preventing neighborhood flooding and erosion.

Pro Tip:

To measure sediment accumulated in the sump of your catch basin or drywell, insert an avalanche pole or PVC tube through the top grate. Sediment depth should not exceed 1/3rd the depth of the sump.



Keep lids clear of sediment & debris



Well-functioning drywell with minimal sediment accumulation



Catch basins, often called "storm drains" are usually found in streets or parking lots



Nearly full of sediment – this catch basin is in serious need of maintenance

Maintenance required when:

- Sediment depth exceeds 1/3 of sump
- Metal grate is clogged by debris
- Stormwater is bypassing the structure
- Damage to structure or lid
- Failing grout inside structure
- Upstream catch basin not performing as designed

Contact your HOA or property manager immediately if:

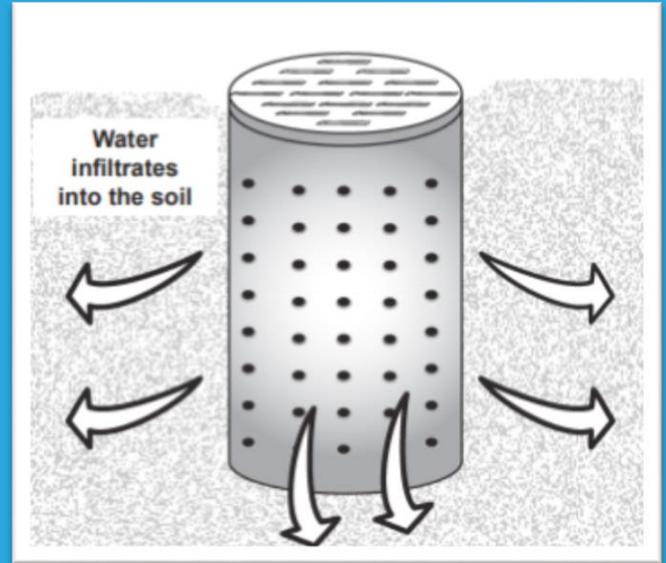
- Catch basin is overflowing
- Metal grate is blocked, missing, or doesn't lay flat on structure
- Evidence of damage from a storm or vandalism

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Don't let your systems fail.

The typical drywell has a reinforced circular lid at the surface of the road, with a perforated concrete cylinder beneath it. The cylinder is surrounded by gravelly loose soils. Most drywells are designed to infiltrate water over a 72 hour period.



Drywells are typically found on property's built pre-1970



Drywell cylinder, pre-installation

Catch basin and drywell lids can become clogged with litter or leaves, especially in the spring and fall. Regularly inspect the lid and remove debris.

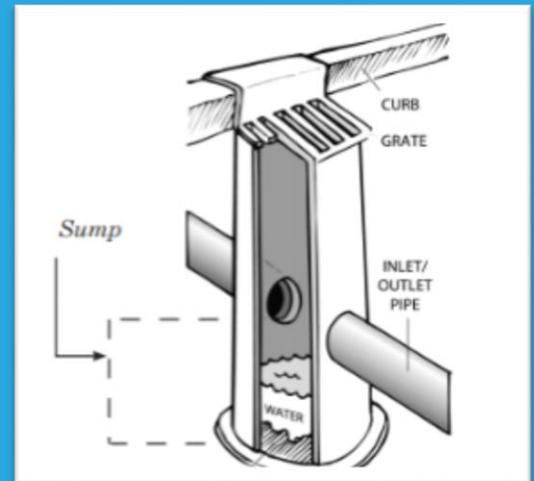
Keep water clean.

Protect county roads from flooding.

Save money.

Catch basins are access points to the stormwater drainage system. They are underground, so the part you see is the drain or grate above. Catch basins keep heavy debris out while letting water in, and are connected to pipes that flow to ponds or natural areas.

As shown in the image to the right, the sump is the distance between the bottom of the pipe to the bottom of the structure. Sediment accumulation must be kept below 1/3 the depth of the sump.



Catch basin illustration

For additional information regarding stormwater management in Thurston County, reference our Stormwater Drainage Manual at DM.ThurstonStormwater.org.