



Residential Stormwater Management

5 Ways to Decrease Residential Stormwater Issues

Managing stormwater runoff and drainage is crucial in residential applications. Improper techniques can cause property damage and have negative environmental impact. These, in turn, can become costly home repairs. Beyond property damage, improper stormwater management can bring pollutants into neighboring properties and watersheds, affecting water quality and the ecosystem.

Having a reliable way to manage stormwater is one of the most important things you can do as a homeowner.

Here are **5 things you can do** to reduce negative impacts of stormwater runoff at your residence.

1. Increase the area on your property where natural drainage can occur.

a. In the natural environment, most precipitation is absorbed organically by the ground, plant roots, natural water features, and more. However, when you replace these surfaces with man-made, impervious surfaces, this cycle of natural absorption is interrupted.

b. You can help ameliorate this effect by choosing cover options such as permeable pavers, gravel, and other pervious surfaces, allowing stormwater to pass through where it can naturally infiltrate.

2. Increase the amount of natural plant life and trees that make up your property.

a. Plants, such as flowers and shrubs, and trees have immense root systems that vastly outshine simple grass lawns when it comes to absorbing and retaining water.

b. By preserving the trees you currently have on your property, and adding new ones where you can, you can take steps to naturally absorb a great deal of stormwater. If you're part of a new home construction, try to leave large trees where they are.

3. Use the water that runs off your roof!

a. If you're looking for a simple way to save on your water consumption – as well as alleviate stormwater concerns – set up water collection equipment to directly capture downspout runoff and redirect it into basins, barrels or dry wells such as plastic chambers.

b. You can then use this gray water to irrigate your lawn or water your plants.



4. Regrade your yard to direct runoff away from your house and into rain gardens.

a. To keep water out of basements and crawlspaces, your lawn should be graded away from your home's foundation for at least the first 10 feet. When possible, the slope should continue away from the foundation towards a rain garden, swale or catchment structure.

b. Rain gardens are depressed areas in the landscape that store and treat stormwater runoff through engineered soil media and natural vegetation.

5. Construct a subsurface stormwater management system to capture runoff and slowly drain it into the soil.

a. If having impervious surfaces on your property is an absolute necessity, the best way to handle it is to install a subsurface stormwater system.

b. Plastic chamber systems, like CULTEC, Inc.'s line of stormwater products, are an inexpensive way to satisfy this requirement.

c. In addition to being cost effective, CULTEC, Inc. chambers are lightweight and easy to maneuver without expensive equipment and effective enough to capture precipitation anywhere from small rain events all the way up to the 100-year storm.