

How can I tell if there are drainage facilities on my property?

Recognizing drainage facilities is the first step. The backside of this brochure provides examples of the kinds of facilities typically found on a residential property in Paradise Valley. Contact a professional civil engineer to help identify and evaluate the facilities on your property if you have any questions.

Dry Wells and Underground Storage

Drywells are used to dispose of retained stormwater from both above-ground basins and underground storage facilities. The only visible evidence of the presence of underground retention facilities and drywells is the grated inlet that is flush with the ground surface. This lack of visibility leads to the problem of “out of sight, out of mind,” and a potential lack of maintenance of these critical facilities. It is important to clean dry wells annually.

Drywell companies may be able to create a maintenance plan and schedule for your drywell facilities.

Mosquito Control

Standing water is the breeding ground for mosquitos. Drainage facilities are required to completely drain within 36 hours to help control this pest and the spread of disease.

Questions? Contact us.

PUBLIC WORKS/ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Paul Mood, *Town Engineer*
(Monday–Friday, 8 AM to 4 PM)
6401 E. Lincoln Drive
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253
Phone: (480) 348-3573
pmood@paradisevalleyaz.gov

Town of Paradise Valley
6401 E. Lincoln Drive
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253



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Residential Drainage Facilities



What is a drainage facility?

Drainage facilities are any type of infrastructure designed to capture, convey or block stormwater. Large drainage facilities, such as found at Indian Bend Wash, are often built to help protect entire communities from the risk associated with our infrequent storms. But drainage facilities also include smaller infrastructure and are often designed and built as part of the construction of a home.

As a resident you may not be aware of the drainage facilities that are on your property, what they look like, and what is required to keep them working as intended.

What is my responsibility?

Keeping drainage facilities working as intended protects your home and property from damage from storms. It also helps prevent damage to others' property and protects you from liability.



1 Pay attention to how stormwater runs onto your property. Hillsides, roadway swales, and washes are common sources but not the only ones. Look for facilities in these areas.

2 Trench drains need to be kept clean and their connecting pipes inspected for clogs, breaks or if they were removed and not replaced.

3 Wall openings should be kept clear of debris, vegetation, and other blockages. Screens and grates should be designed to allow water to get under or around debris during a flood.

4 Permeable pavers, often located at driveways and patios, will lose the ability to let water pass through over time and require periodic professional maintenance.

5 Culvert and pipe openings need to be kept clear of debris, vegetation, sediment and other blockages.

6 Retention basins and swales collect debris and sediment over time that need to be removed. Contact a civil engineer if you plan on regrading your property.

7 Underground stormwater storage and dry wells include a wide range of different facilities. Look for inlet grates at roof drains, in retention basins, or at low points on your property. These facilities require periodic professional maintenance and cleaning.