

How To Create a Swale/Dry Creek



- A swale is a V or U-shaped depression that helps move water like a dry creek.
- It is used to help direct the flow of water through a landscape as part of a downspout redirect, rain barrel overflow, into a rain garden, and more.
- Use the following as a guide.

You'll need the following:

- Measuring tape
- Rocks, gravel, plants, mulch
- Shovel

Let's get started

- The beginning of the swale should be 2 feet away from the foundation of a building.
- The swale needs to slope at least 1 - 2% grade (1 - 2 inches for every 8 feet of length) to direct water.

High point - where water enters the site

Slope

Low point - where water enters or flows through the garden



- Create a depression to correctly direct water.
 - Use a v- or u-shaped slope from the center depth to the outside edges creating a depression.
- Place rocks, gravel, mulch, and/or plants within the swale.
- Test the effectiveness of the swale by running water through your system.

