

There are several types of yard drainage systems, and the best one depends on whether you're dealing with standing water, erosion, soggy grass, foundation issues, or runoff from heavy rain. Here's a simple breakdown of the most common options:

French Drain

A trench filled with gravel and a perforated pipe that redirects underground water away from your yard or foundation.

Best For:

- Soggy yards
- Water pooling near foundations
- Sloped properties
- Basement water issues

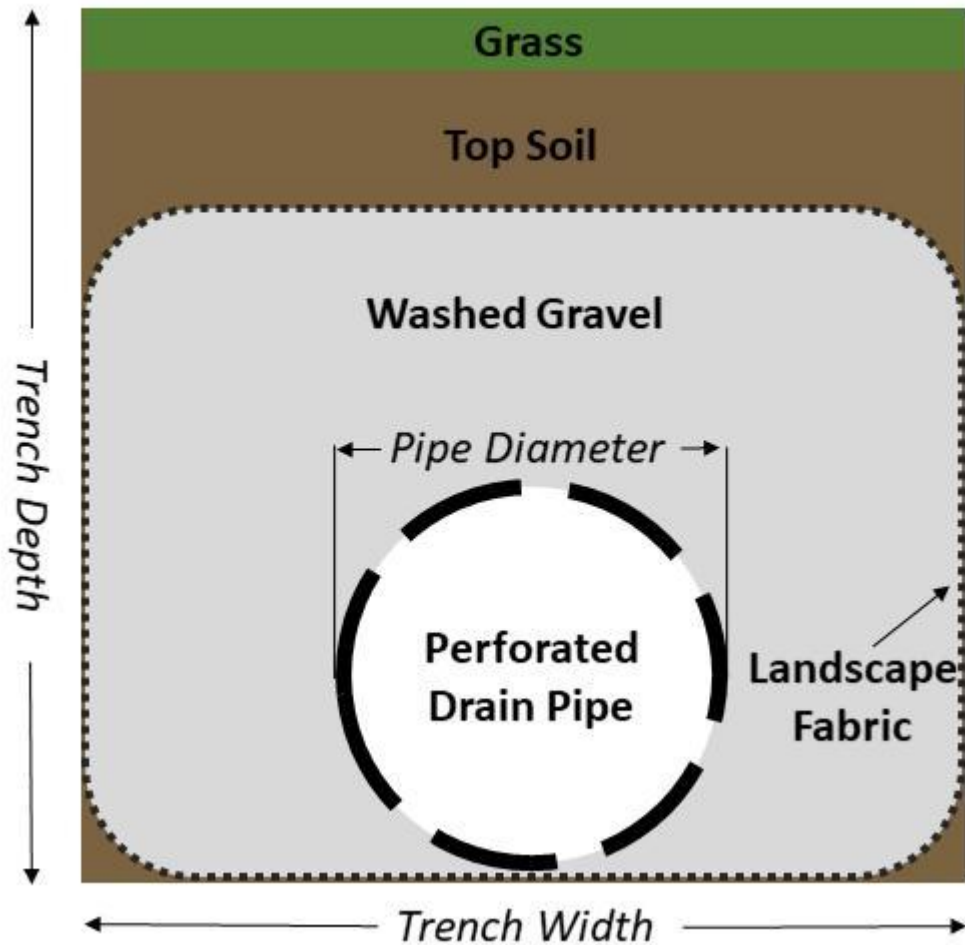
Pros:

- Hidden underground
- Long-lasting
- Handles groundwater well

Cons:

- Requires digging
- Can clog over time without fabric/filtering

French Drain Cross Section



Surface Drain / Catch Basin

A grated drain installed at low points that collects surface water and moves it through underground pipes.

Best For:

- Standing water after rain
- Driveways
- Patios
- Areas where water rushes quickly

Pros:

- Quickly removes surface water
- Great for hardscapes
- Prevents flooding

Cons:

- Visible grate
- Needs occasional debris cleaning

Channel Drain (Trench Drain)

A long narrow drain with a grate that captures water across a wide area.

Best For:

- Driveways
- Pool decks

- Garage entrances
- Concrete patios

Pros:

- Handles large water flow
- Clean modern look
- Protects paved surfaces

Cons:

- Mostly for hard surfaces
- Professional installation often recommended

Dry Creek Bed

A decorative rock-lined drainage path that guides stormwater naturally through the yard.

Best For:

- Erosion control
- Sloped yards
- Landscaping enhancement

Pros:

- Attractive landscaping feature
- Natural-looking
- Helps control runoff

Cons:

- Takes up space
 - Less effective for severe standing water
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Which Drainage System Is Best?

- **Standing water in grass:** French drain or catch basin
- **Water near foundation:** French drain + downspout extensions
- **Driveway flooding:** Channel drain

- **Erosion on slopes:** Swale or dry creek bed
- **Budget-friendly fix:** Downspout extensions and grading

Many yards actually need a combination of systems for the best long-term results.