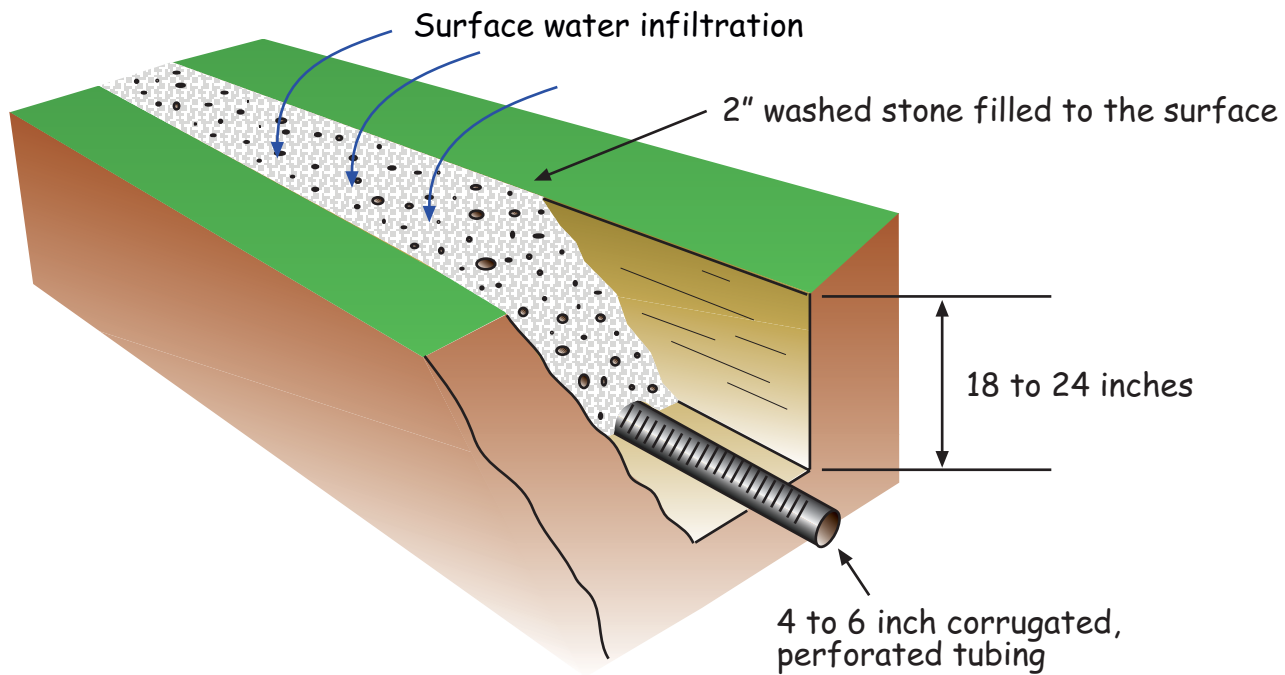


Building a French Drain in Clermont County

A French Drain is a trench with perforated tubing in the bottom and 2 inch stone covering the tubing all the way to the surface. No soil is placed over the stone. When the project is finished, it will look as if there is a gravel walkway in the yard.

To build a French Drain, **you first must have an outlet to drain the tubing** such as a stream or road ditch. Starting at the outlet, excavate an 18 to 24 inch deep trench and through the yard connecting the low spots where water ponds. Take care to keep a **constant positive grade to the outlet**.



In the trench, place 4 or 6 inch corrugated perforated tubing. The size can vary based on the amount of surface water you want to drain. Be sure that all the connections are locked together.

Backfill the trench with **2 inch washed stone**. Be sure the stone is clean and free of fines or dust. Fines and dust will pack in the voids of the rock causing the infiltration of water to slow or even cease. You do not want this to happen.

Any disturbed areas that are not filled with stone should be fertilized and seeded to grass as soon as possible.

Maintenance... From time to time be sure to clear off leaves or other debris. The secret to a well functioning French Drain is lots of area for surface water infiltration.



For more information, please contact
Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District
1000 Locust Street, P.O. box 549
Owensville, Ohio 45160
phone (513) 732-7075