

Drainage System

By: Melinda Sperl

Drainage systems are just not a fun thing to think about but when we get that first monsoon we might get reminded the hard way.

Even without rain, drainage problem areas show where water sits from irrigation, soggy areas between houses, or algae growing on walls. Mosquitoes are also heavier in un-drained yards. We don't want to admit it but this can also be an indication of overwatering.

Drainage systems can vary in type with the most common being the catch basin system. Here the drain basins are put in several low spots to then drain out to the street. If there is water entering the home, a traditional French drain system plus catch basin may be needed to divert all the water quickly away from the house. Including gutter downspouts in the drain system is necessary as the roofline is the heaviest point of water near the home.

A good drain system should last you many years barring construction and heavy roots. Using quality products like solid PVC pipe and proper grading can make all the difference to your drainage system. Black corrugated piping should be avoided on any drain system as it will not last much more than a year. By hiring a drainage professional you could make the difference on your drain lasting from 1 to 20+ years.

Happy Gardening!

Melinda Sperl is a Horticulturalist and the owner of Dream Landscape Design, Inc. You can reach Melinda at Melinda@dreamlandscapedesign.com or www.dreamlandscapedesign.com