



Best Practices

Updated August 2026

Ensure all RWH Systems have:

- Correct sizing to accommodate for high-intensity events (gutters, inflow, outflow and overflow)
 - Overflow rain gardens can be an integral part of system capacity
- Accurate measurement of basin slopes, placement of inflow/outflow, elevations & where to place system components



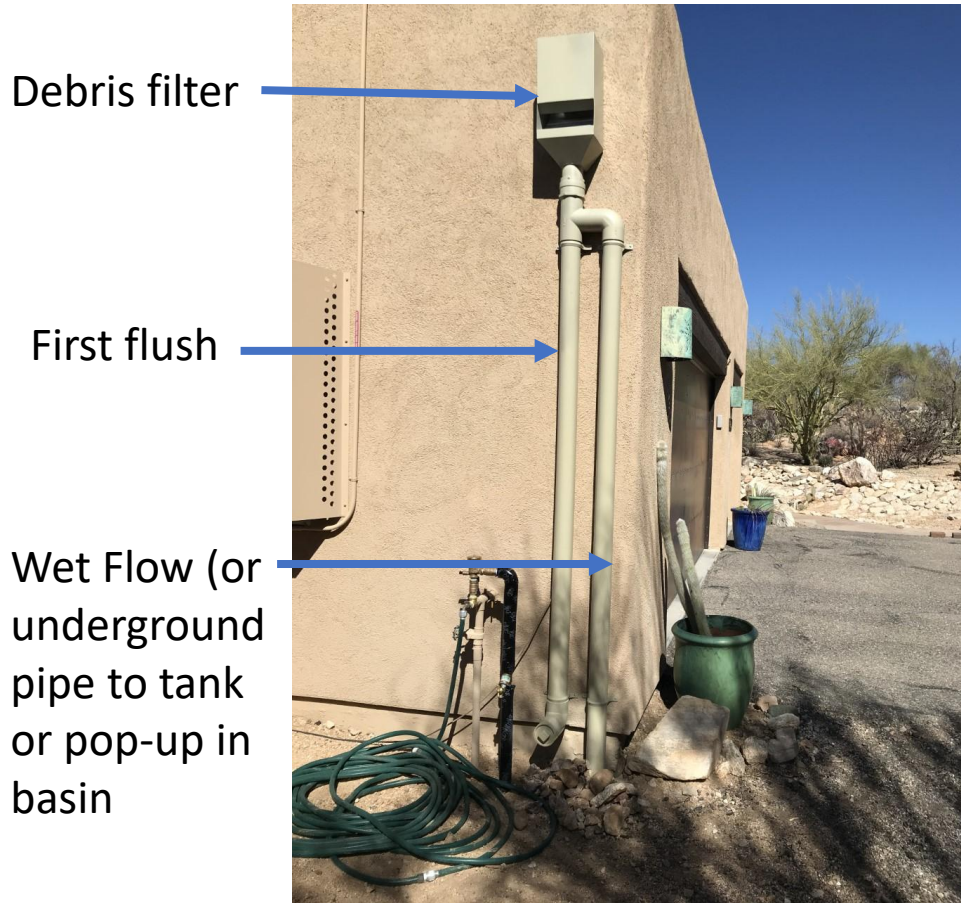
Ensure Active RWH Systems:

- Use high-quality materials (Schedule 40 PVC & ensure painted to withstand UV; sheet metal leaf catcher)
- Designed to maximize safety and minimize maintenance (accessible debris filters & first flush devices)
- Are installed on a level surface

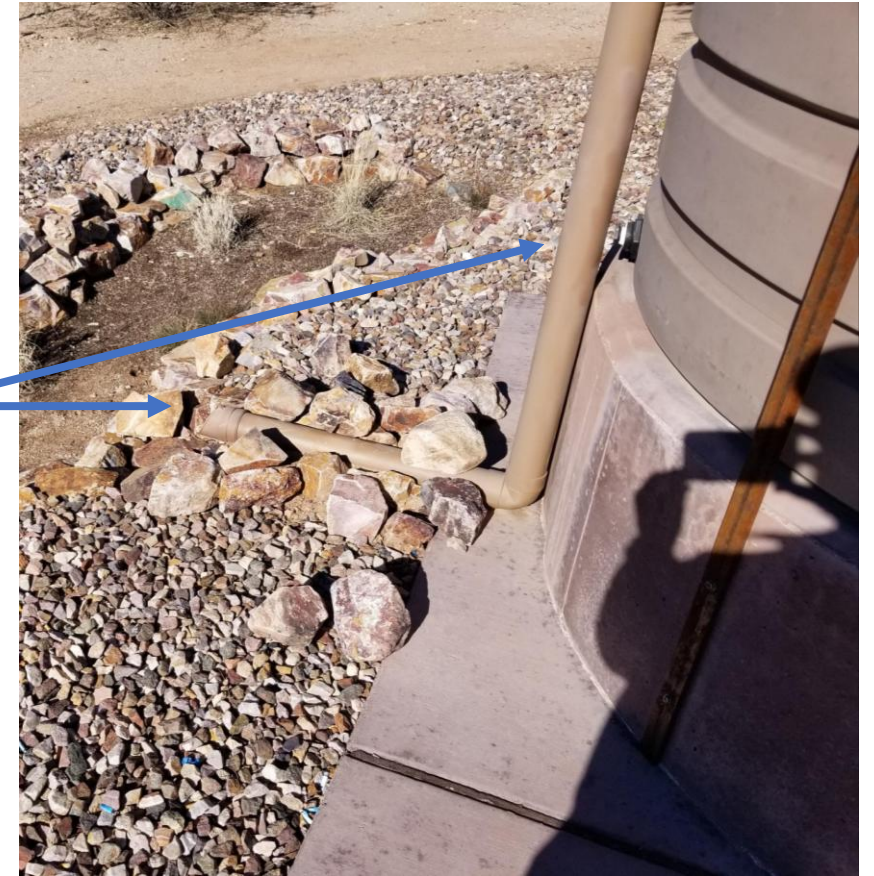
Refer to manufacturer installation instructions. Recommended materials are usually concrete pads, compacted sand or drainage gravel.



Key Features of Guttering & Tanks



Tank overflow
into raingarden
(basin)



Ensure Passive RWH Systems:

- Berm height > 4 inches above overflow or outlet
- Mulch should be at least 4 inches below overflow spillway elevation
- Berms 2 to 4 times as wide as they are tall
- Use organic mulch for infiltration areas
- Use rock mulch for conveyance/swale areas if needed



Rock Reinforced Side Slopes of Outfalls & Basins



Gutter outfall
reinforced with
rock to prevent
erosion

Basin slopes
reinforced with
rock to prevent
erosion



Basin infiltration
area filled with 2"-
4"
woodchip/organic
mulch

Examples of Basins & Swales

