

DRAINAGE

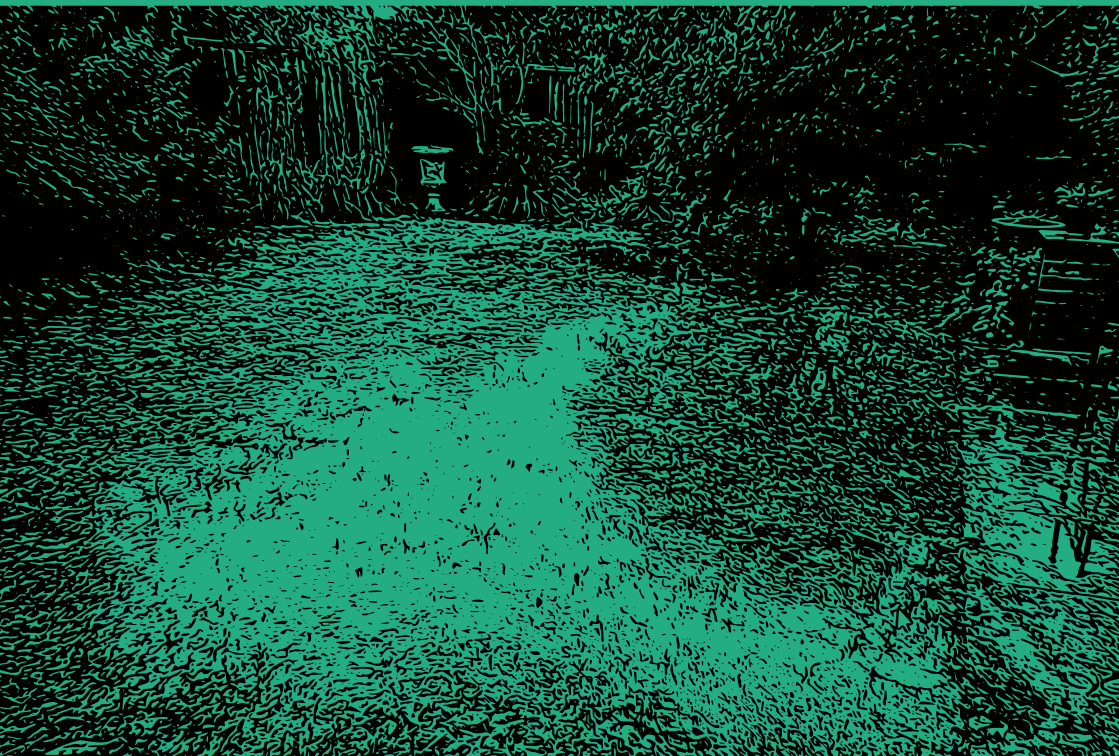
+

WATERLOGGING

HOW TO KEEP YOUR
GARDEN HEALTHY

+

DRY



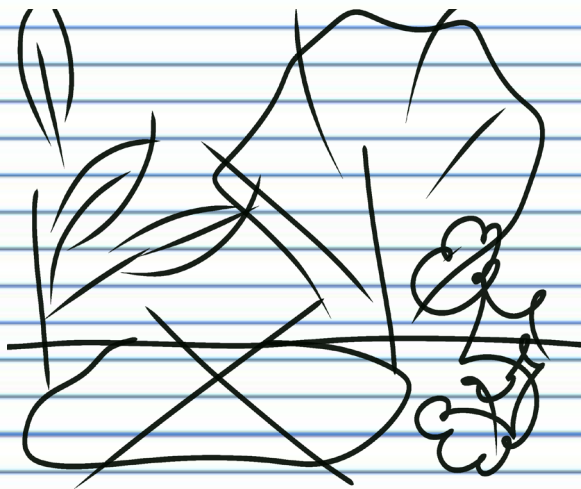
Drainage and Waterlogging: How to Keep Your Garden Healthy and Dry

Does your garden stay wet long after it rains?

A little rain is great for the garden, but when water refuses to drain away, it can quickly become a problem. Soggy lawns, muddy borders, standing puddles and waterlogged soil don't just make your garden difficult to use—they can also damage plants, weaken lawns and even affect your property's foundations if left untreated.

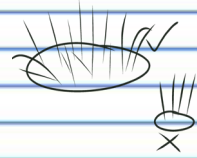
The good news is that poor drainage is usually something that can be improved. Whether your garden sits on heavy clay soil, has compacted ground or simply wasn't designed to cope with heavy rainfall, there are plenty of ways to manage excess water while creating a healthier and more enjoyable outdoor space.

The key is understanding why water is collecting in the first place, then choosing the right solution rather than simply trying to drain everything away as quickly as possible.



1. Understand Why Your Garden Is Waterlogged

Garden To-Do List



- ☐ Walk around your garden after heavy rain.
- ☐ Identify where water collects.
- ☐ Check whether the soil feels compacted.
- ☐ Make a note of slopes and low points.
- ☐ Consider whether recent landscaping has affected drainage.

☐ Five Do's

- Identify the root cause before making changes.
- Consider your soil type.
- Observe how water naturally moves through the garden.
- Think about recent weather patterns.
- Take photographs of problem areas.

☐ Five Don'ts

- Don't assume every wet area needs drainage.
- Don't rush into expensive solutions.
- Don't ignore changes in ground levels.
- Don't overlook blocked drains or gutters.
- Don't expect one solution to solve every problem.



2. Check Where the Water Collects

Garden To-Do List

- ☐ Inspect the garden after rainfall.
- ☐ Mark puddles on a simple sketch.
- ☐ Time how long standing water remains.
- ☐ Check whether water flows towards your house.
- ☐ Identify areas that stay soft underfoot.

☐ Five Do's

- Observe before acting.
- Monitor several rainfall events.
- Record recurring problem spots.
- Think about water flow.
- Compare different parts of the garden.

☐ Five Don'ts

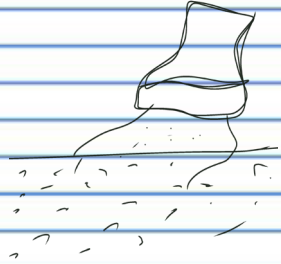
- Don't assess drainage during dry weather.
- Don't ignore small puddles.
- Don't assume every area behaves the same.
- Don't forget neighbouring land can affect drainage.
- Don't overlook roof runoff.



3. Improve Your Soil

Garden To-Do List

- ☐ Dig a small test hole.
- ☐ Add organic matter to borders.
- ☐ Apply compost or well-rotted manure.
- ☐ Aerate compacted areas.
- ☐ Mulch regularly to improve soil health.



☐ Five Do's

- Improve soil gradually.
- Add organic matter every year.
- Encourage healthy soil biology.
- Work compost into heavy soils.
- Keep soil covered with mulch.

☐ Five Don'ts

- Don't dig wet clay soil.
- Don't rely solely on sand.
- Don't compact the soil unnecessarily.
- Don't leave bare ground exposed.
- Don't ignore soil health.

4. Choose Plants That Enjoy Damp Conditions

Garden To-Do List

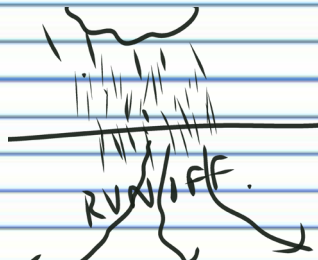
- ☐ Identify naturally wet borders.
- ☐ Research moisture-loving plants.
- ☐ Group plants with similar needs.
- ☐ Replace struggling plants.
- ☐ Add seasonal interest with suitable species.

☐ Five Do's

- Work with natural conditions.
- Choose appropriate plants.
- Include different heights and textures.
- Support wildlife.
- Create attractive damp planting areas.

☐ Five Don'ts

- Don't force dry-loving plants into wet soils.
- Don't overwater moisture-loving plants.
- Don't ignore mature size.
- Don't plant without checking conditions.
- Don't fight nature unnecessarily.



5. Reduce Hard Surfaces

Garden To-Do List

- ☐ Measure existing paved areas.
- ☐ Identify opportunities for permeable surfaces.
- ☐ Replace damaged paving.
- ☐ Add gravel where appropriate.
- ☐ Increase planted areas.

☐ Five Do's

- Let rain soak naturally.
- Choose permeable materials.
- Increase green space.
- Reduce unnecessary paving.
- Think sustainably.

☐ Five Don'ts

- Don't pave every available space.
- Don't ignore drainage beneath patios.
- Don't allow runoff towards buildings.
- Don't use impermeable materials unnecessarily.
- Don't forget maintenance.



6. Improve Lawn Drainage

Garden To-Do List

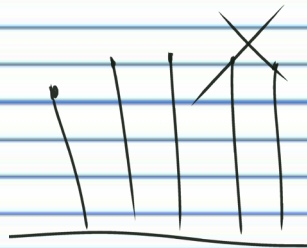
- ☐ Aerate compacted lawns.
- ☐ Fill low spots.
- ☐ Top-dress with compost.
- ☐ Overseed damaged areas.
- ☐ Monitor improvements after rainfall.

☐ Five Do's

- Aerate annually.
- Improve soil beneath the lawn.
- Keep grass healthy.
- Encourage deep rooting.
- Level uneven ground.

☐ Five Don'ts

- Don't mow when the lawn is waterlogged.
- Don't walk on saturated grass.
- Don't ignore compaction.
- Don't overwater.
- Don't expect instant improvements.



7. Install Better Drainage

Garden To-Do List

- ☐ Assess whether natural improvements are enough.
- ☐ Identify suitable drainage routes.
- ☐ Research drainage options.
- ☐ Consider professional advice.
- ☐ Ensure water drains safely.

Five Do's

- Choose the right drainage system.
- Direct water responsibly.
- Work with existing levels.
- Consider future rainfall.
- Plan before digging.

Five Don'ts

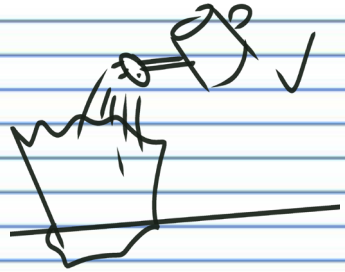
- Don't install drains without planning.
- Don't direct water onto neighbouring land.
- Don't ignore regulations.
- Don't oversize systems unnecessarily.
- Don't forget ongoing maintenance.



8. Make the Most of Rainwater

Garden To-Do List

- ☐ Install a water butt.
- ☐ Identify opportunities for rain gardens.
- ☐ Consider wildlife-friendly features.
- ☐ Collect roof runoff.
- ☐ Reduce wasted rainwater.



☐ Five Do's

- Harvest rainwater.
- Support biodiversity.
- Slow water naturally.
- Create wildlife habitats.
- Use sustainable drainage.

☐ Five Don'ts

- Don't waste clean rainwater.
- Don't drain everything away immediately.
- Don't ignore environmental benefits.
- Don't overlook water storage.
- Don't create unnecessary runoff.

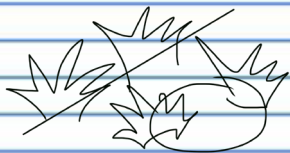
9. Create Levels That Work With Nature

Garden To-Do List

- ☐ Check existing slopes.
- ☐ Identify low points.
- ☐ Plan subtle level changes.
- ☐ Direct water towards planting.
- ☐ Review patio falls.

☐ Five Do's

- Work with the land.
- Encourage natural drainage.
- Grade surfaces carefully.
- Protect buildings.
- Keep water moving gently.

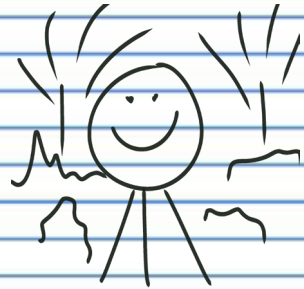


☐ Five Don'ts

- Don't create new low spots.
- Don't allow water to pool near your home.
- Don't ignore site levels.
- Don't make sudden changes in height.
- Don't fight natural drainage patterns.

10. Design for Heavy Rainfall

- ☐ Garden To-Do List
- ☐ Increase planting areas.
- ☐ Add deep-rooted species.
- ☐ Review drainage capacity.
- ☐ Consider future climate conditions.
- ☐ Improve water storage.



☐ Five Do's

- Plan for changing weather.
- Increase resilience.
- Use sustainable drainage.
- Plant deeply rooted species.
- Think long term.

☐ Five Don'ts

- Don't design for average rainfall alone.
- Don't underestimate storms.
- Don't ignore climate change.
- Don't rely on one drainage solution.
- Don't leave vulnerable areas exposed.

11. Know When to Ask for Professional Help

Garden To-Do List

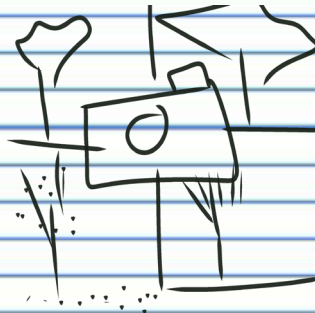
- ☐ Check whether water threatens your home.
- ☐ Monitor repeated flooding.
- ☐ Photograph persistent problems.
- ☐ Speak to neighbours if water crosses boundaries.
- ☐ Arrange professional advice if needed.

☐ Five Do's

- Seek advice early.
- Protect your property.
- Solve problems properly.
- Consider long-term solutions.
- Invest in good design.

☐ Five Don'ts

- Don't ignore recurring flooding.
- Don't delay repairs.
- Don't attempt major drainage without planning.
- Don't overlook hidden drainage issues.
- Don't wait for damage to occur.



12. Create a Healthier Garden from the Ground Up

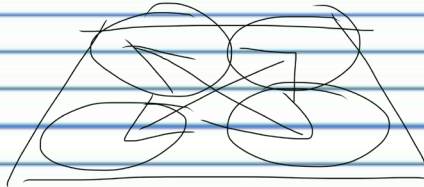
- ☐ Garden To-Do List
- ☐ Review the whole garden.
- ☐ Improve one area at a time.
- ☐ Combine planting with drainage improvements.
- ☐ Monitor progress each season.
- ☐ Celebrate every improvement.

☐ Five Do's

- Work with nature.
- Improve gradually.
- Keep soil healthy.
- Design sustainably.
- Think about the whole landscape.

☐ Five Don'ts

- Don't expect instant results.
- Don't focus on one issue alone.
- Don't neglect maintenance.
- Don't over-engineer simple problems.
- Don't forget that healthy soil is the foundation of every successful garden.



Your Garden Action Plan

Before making any changes, work through this checklist.

Planning

- ☐ Walk around your garden after heavy rain.
- ☐ Identify where water collects.
- ☐ Photograph problem areas.
- ☐ Test your soil.
- ☐ Set a realistic improvement budget.



Design

- ☐ Improve soil structure.
- ☐ Increase permeable surfaces.
- ☐ Choose moisture-loving plants where appropriate.
- ☐ Plan drainage improvements.
- ☐ Harvest rainwater wherever possible.

Implementation

- ☐ In Aerate compacted lawns.
- ☐ Add compost and organic matter.
- ☐ Install sustainable drainage if required.
- ☐ Plant suitable species.
- ☐ Monitor your garden after future rainfall and continue making gradual improvements.

At Tria Prima Design, we believe successful landscape design works with nature rather than against it—creating sustainable gardens that manage water intelligently while remaining beautiful throughout the year.