

DRY CREEK BED INSTALLATION GIUDE

*Having the right tools can be a huge time saver during your project. Gather all tools before you begin, so you can avoid unnecessary delays in your project. Here’s a tool checklist to guide you!*

**STEP 1**

**GATHER YOUR TOOLS**

 **What You Need:**

* Landscaper's paint
* Landscape fabric
* Fabric Staples
* River rocks and boulders
* Shovel
* Tamp

DON’T FORGET, CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!

Before you buy materials or begin work, check local building codes and your homeowner's association regulations to see if there are any restrictions or requirements you need to follow. ***Simply call 811 from your phone and they will ask you a series of questions to get the ball rolling. Georgia 811 will tell you when it is safe to start digging. This usually takes around 3-4 days.***



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PLANNING YOUR BED

**STEP 2**

1. First, plan the course that the dry creek bed will take down the slope. Mark the 2 edges of that course with landscaper's paint. A meandering course looks more natural than a straight course. How high up the slope should you start? In some cases, there's little choice. For instance, if a landscape drainage pipe that's already in place is dumping all that excess water onto your property, your decision is clear-cut: begin the project by [grading the land](http://landscaping.about.com/od/sitegradingdrainage/f/land_grading.htm) right under that pipe....
2. But in cases where you have more leeway (especially for features that will be purely decorative), attempt to disguise the "headwaters" of the dry creek bed by making it bend out from behind a large boulder or some plant material.
3. Now you need to decide where the bed should finish down below? Find a place in the yard that can handle excess water. That might be towards the street or towards the back of your property. Remember, water will flow naturally if you give it some guidance. You might have to adjust the grade on an area to make it go where you want
4. Make sure it’s flowing on your property and not your neighbors and don’t

just send you problem to them. They might not be happy about that.

1. The dimensions don't have to be a certain size. Natural dry creek beds are all sorts of shapes and sizes. A typical range is 3ft-6ft wide, depending on how much water will be going through it and how big your area is.

**STEP 3**

* 1. Begin excavating the land where you want your dry creek bed to be. The trench needs to be thicker than the rock you are using.

INSTALLING YOUR BED

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* 1. Take the soil that you're excavating and mound it up along the sides of your dry creek bed, as you go. This will reduce the amount of digging that you have to do, since you'll be lowering the base and raising the sides in one motion. Tamp down this excavated soil with a tamping tool.
	2. After the trench for the dry creek bed has been excavated, lay down landscape fabric along its whole length. You want the fabric to cover the mounds of earth on both sides, as well as the trench. Hold [the fabric in place using fabric](http://landscaping.about.com/od/weedsdiseases/ss/weed_fabrics.htm) pins.
	3. Begin laying down your rocks. You can use rock of various shapes and sizes.
	4. Hand placing your rock, instead of just dumping them in a pile and spreading them, will help them stretch a little further.
	5. Place your larger rocks on the sides of your feature, where they'll help channel the water and where they'll have the most visual impact. Use any bigger pieces for the biggest bends in your stream's course. You can also set bigger pieces as accents through the center.
	6. If needed you can take smaller rock to fill any gaps that the bigger pieces did not cover.

That’s it. You’re Finished!!!