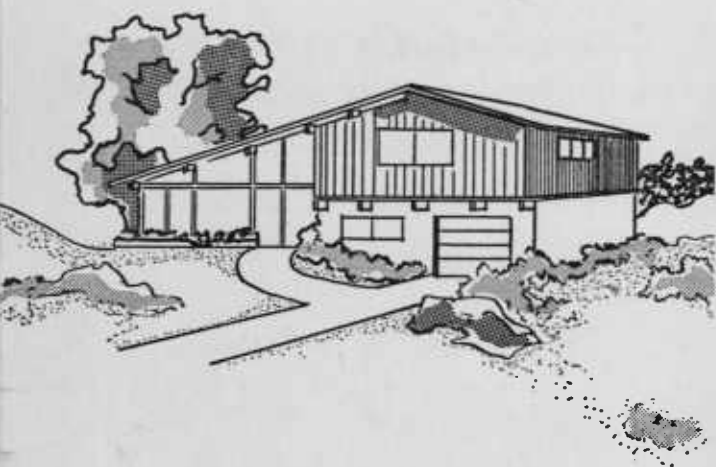


# DRAINAGE

## *Around Homes* ON SLOPING GROUND



Federal Cooperative Extension Service  
Oregon State College     ✓     Corvallis

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**S**URFACE WATER around your house can be messy, unsanitary, and injurious to plants and the building itself. The source of surface water must be determined before a positive program for getting rid of it can be started. Usually this is not difficult.

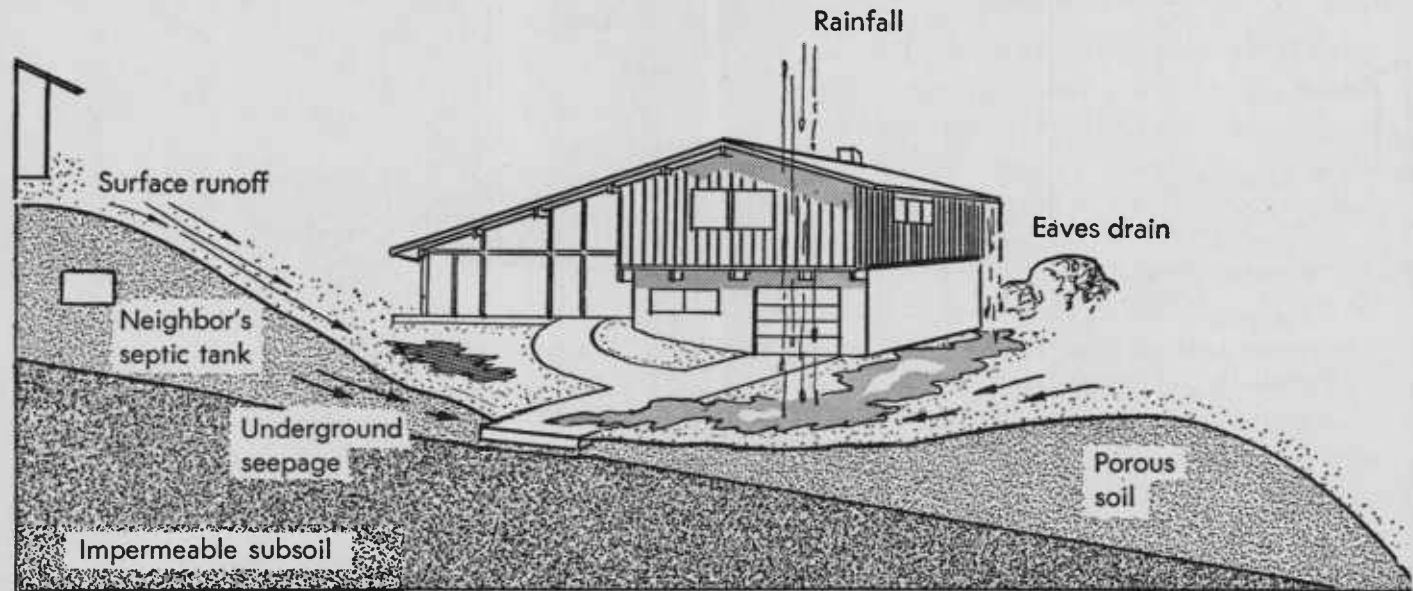
Problems from eave drainage, surface runoff from higher lands, and septic-tank drainage are usually easy to recognize.

Water commonly stands in puddles for a period of time after a rain, especially when the soil is fine and sticky. When the soil is more porous, the water will drain through it until it hits an impervious layer similar to the clay pan shown in the drawing. The water then moves downhill as seepage water on the top of the clay pan.

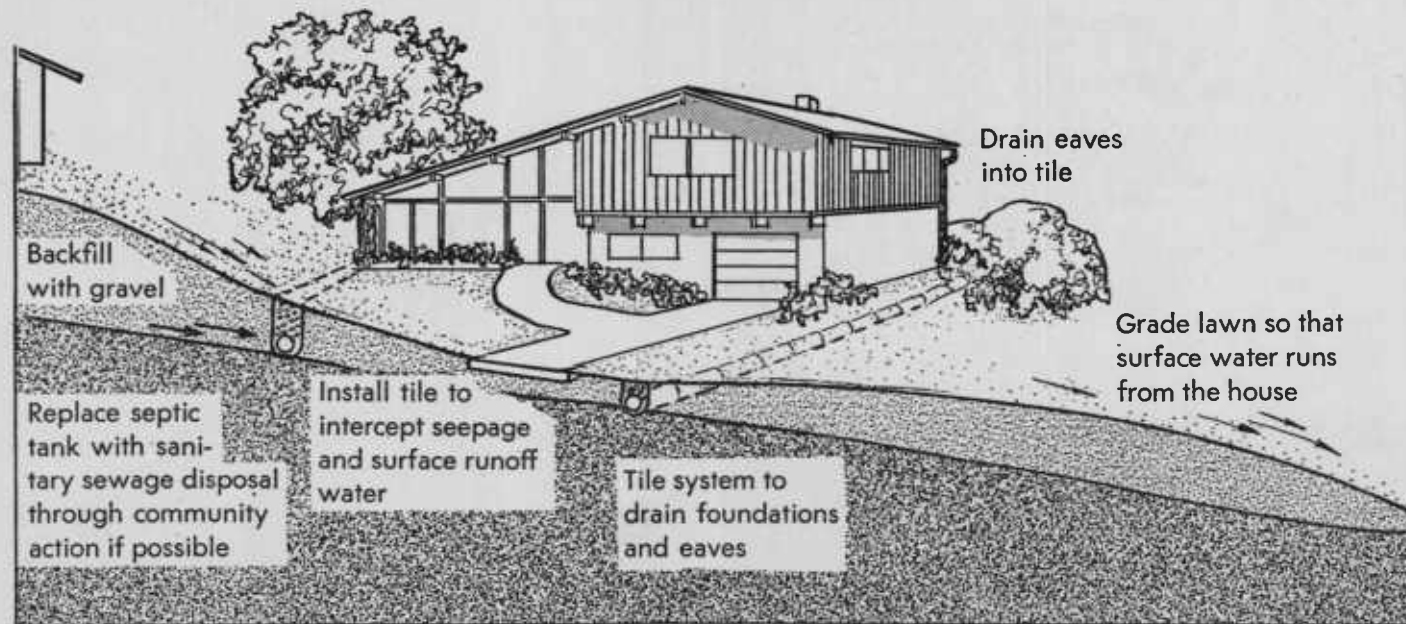
### What to Do About It

- Drain eaves into paved streets, storm sewers, or natural drainways capable of handling the water. Dry wells are usually unsatisfactory unless they are at a lower elevation than the yard, and are in a well-drained soil.
- Grade and smooth the lawn so surface water drains away from the house toward a drainway that can handle it. This may be toward a storm sewer, toward the street, etc.
- Surface water coming from higher land can be diverted away from the house with an open ditch, or by proper grading.
- Water seeping to your yard from higher land can be intercepted and carried off with tile. Lay the tile across the slope on a slight grade, with the bottom of the tile at or just below the clay pan.

## Sources of Excess Water on Sloping Ground



## What to do about it



You can find the clay pan easily by digging or boring with a soil auger. Space the individual tiles  $1/16$  to  $1/8$  inch apart.

- The tile should empty into a storm sewer, a paved street, or a natural drainway. In new housing additions where storm sewers are not provided, it may be necessary for homeowners to cooperate in providing them.
- Septic tanks require large drainage areas when located in fine-textured soil. When houses are located close together under such conditions a problem usually develops, and it is necessary to have community action in sanitary sewage disposal.

### **Other Bulletins Available**

"Drainage Practices for Oregon"—Station Bulletin 492

"Farm Drainage"—USDA Farmers Bulletin 2046

"Septic Tanks for Oregon Rural Homes"—Extension Bulletin 670

*Your County Extension Agent  
can supply other information  
on landscaping, gardening,  
and lawn care.*