

## CHAPTER 1

# Downspout Disconnection

If your downspouts are connected to underground pipes that lead to the municipal sewer system, you can slow down the stormwater by disconnecting them and collecting the water in a rain barrel or cistern or simply letting it soak into the ground. This is especially important in older neighborhoods with combined sewers where sanitary sewage and stormwater drain into the same pipes. When it rains, stormwater from your roofs and gutters can overwhelm the sewer system and may lead to basement backups, flooding in your community and combined sewage overflowing into nearby rivers and lakes. Disconnecting the downspouts is one of the cheapest and easiest stormwater management projects you can implement at your home.



## INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

### TOOLS & MATERIALS

You will need the following tools and materials:

- |                                       |                                              |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hacksaw      | <input type="checkbox"/> Sheet Metal Screws  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drill        | <input type="checkbox"/> Downspout Elbow     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Screwdriver  | <input type="checkbox"/> Downspout Extension |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pliers       | <input type="checkbox"/> Standpipe Cap       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tape Measure | <input type="checkbox"/> Splash Block        |



### STEP 1

#### Select downspouts and locations to release stormwater

Picking the right location to redirect downspout water is important to protect the foundation of your house and prevent water from finding its way to your basement. You will want to make sure that:

- Water flows away from your house and all structures.
- A downspout can be extended at least 6 feet from your home to prevent foundation damage.
- Water will not flow into an area with a steep slope. Fast flowing water will cause erosion to a steep slope.
- A downspout does not release water directly onto sidewalks and pavement. Provide at least 6 feet of lawn or garden space for water to soak into the ground.
- Water is not released directly to your neighbor's property.

### STEP 2

#### Measure the downspout

Measure your downspout 9 inches from the standpipe, the pipe that goes underground. Make a mark on your downspout.



### STEP 3

#### Cut the downspout

Using the hacksaw, cut the downspout where you made your mark. Be careful to protect any siding while cutting the downspout.



**STEP 4**  
**Cap the standpipe**

Place a cap on the standpipe so water cannot continue to enter the sewer from this point.



**STEP 5**  
**Attach the downspout elbow**

Using pliers to ensure a tight fit, attach the downspout elbow to the downspout section still attached to your house.



**STEP 6**  
**Secure the downspout elbow**

Using sheet metal screws and a drill, secure the elbow to the downspout.

**STEP 7**  
**Attach the downspout extension**

Using sheet metal screws and a drill, secure the downspout extension to the elbow.

**STEP 8**  
**Prevent erosion**

Place a splash block at the end of the extension to help prevent erosion and direct water. You may also choose to place decorative rock at this location as part of a rain garden or bioswale installation.



