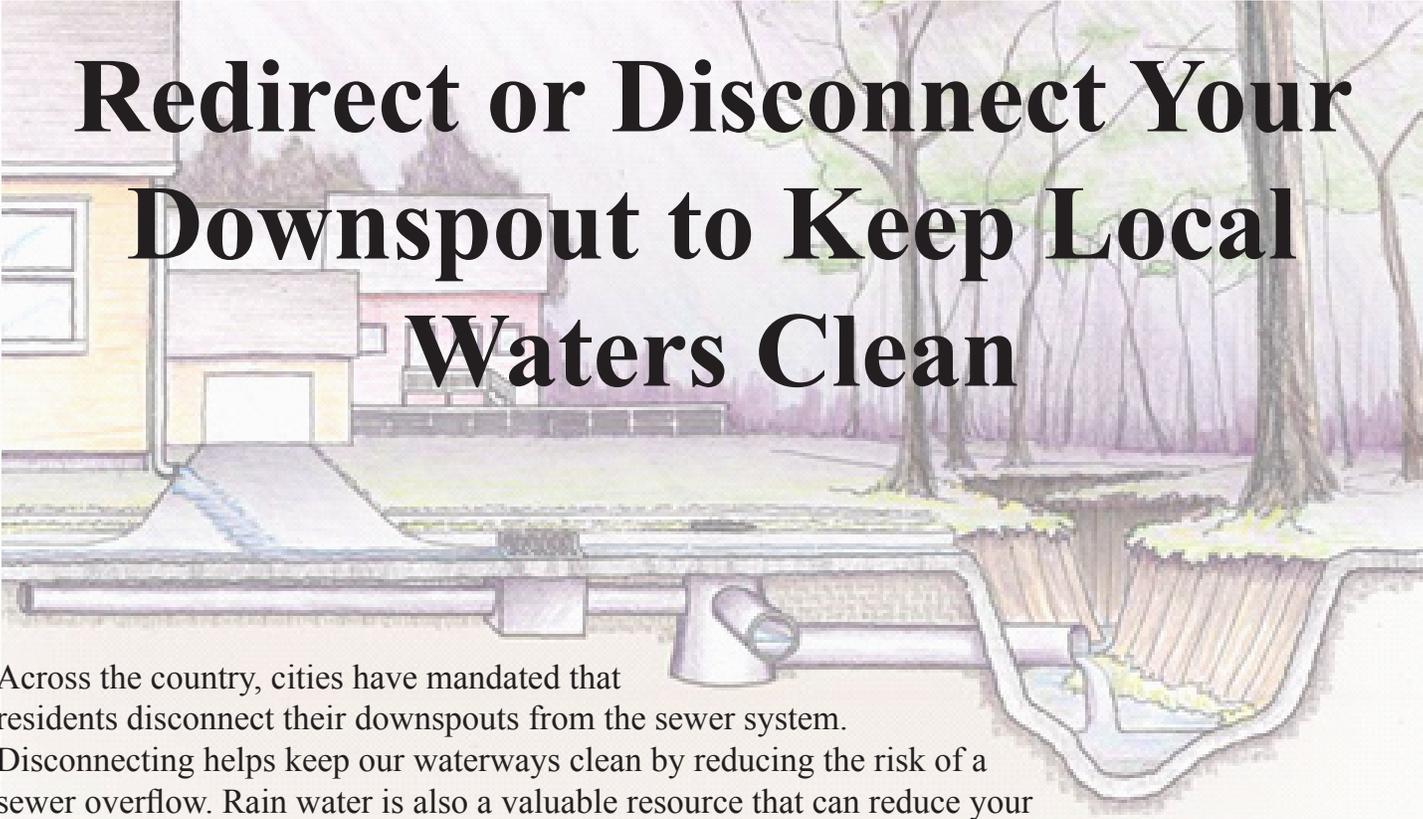


Redirect or Disconnect Your Downspout to Keep Local Waters Clean



Across the country, cities have mandated that residents disconnect their downspouts from the sewer system. Disconnecting helps keep our waterways clean by reducing the risk of a sewer overflow. Rain water is also a valuable resource that can reduce your watering. Sensitive plants prefer rain water to tap water.

During a heavy storm, each downspout on your home can deliver **12 gallons a minute** to the sewer system, which can contribute to basement backups, flooding and sewer overflows. With just \$15 and less than an hour of work, you can make a difference in keeping excess water out of the sewer system.



Before you start

The slope of the yard must not drain water toward the house.

Downspouts must extend at least six feet away from a basement and two feet away from a crawl space.

The end of the downspout extension needs to be at least five feet from your property line. More room may be needed if the yard slopes toward the neighbor's house.

Already Disconnected?

Make sure the downspout is pointing into the lawn or gardens, not driveways or sidewalks.

Courtesy of University of Wisconsin-Extension

How to Disconnect Your Downspout

Step 1



Step 1: Supplies

All you need are a few supplies:

- hacksaw
- hammer
- pliers
- downspout elbow
- splash block (optional)
- tape measure
- screw driver
- sheet metal screws
- downspout extension
- rubber cap

Total cost per downspout should be less than \$15.00

Step 2: Measure

Measure 9" from where the downspout enters the sewer connection.

Step 3: Cut

Cut the downspout with a hacksaw.

Step 4: Cap

Cap the sewer standpipe. This prevents water from going in. In most cases, you should be able to use a simple rubber cap secured by a hose clamp. You can also use a wing-nut test plug if available cap sizes don't fit.

Step 5: Connect elbow

Insert the downspout **into** the elbow (if you put the elbow into the downspout, it will leak). You may need to crimp the end of the downspout with a pair of pliers to get a good fit.

Step 3



Step 4



Step 6

Courtesy of MMSD.com



Step 6: Connect extension

Attach a downspout pipe extension to carry water away from the house and foundation. You can use a hacksaw to cut the extension to the desired length. Be sure to insert the elbow into the extension to prevent leaks. Secure the elbow and extension with sheet metal screws. To prevent erosion where the water drains, you can place a splash block at the end of the downspout extension.

Resources

For more information, visit:

www.marc.org/Environment/water/downspout.htm

To watch an instructional video, visit:

www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?c=43081

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