



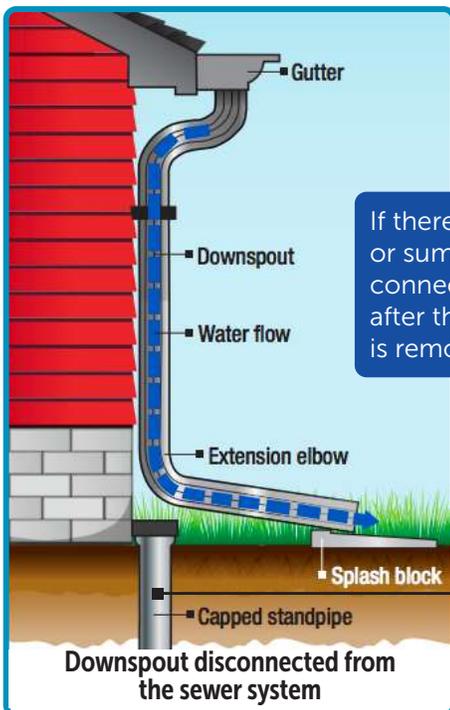
Downspout Disconnection and Redirection

What Is Downspout Disconnection and Redirection?

During heavy rains, municipal stormwater systems can become overloaded, leading to localized flooding. To reduce pressure on these systems during large storm events, consider disconnecting or redirecting the downspouts on your property.

Downspout disconnection means decoupling your downspout from your standpipe or from a sump pump to reduce the amount of storm water entering the municipal stormwater system or local waterbody following a heavy rain event.

Downspout redirection involves redirecting your downspouts from an impermeable surface (driveway, road, farm path) to a more permeable surface (swale, rain garden, soakaway pit) or a rain barrel, which reduce runoff by allowing water to enter natural systems more slowly.



If there is a sewer or sump pump connection, cap it after the downspout is removed.



Downspout disconnection and redirection **SLOWS** storm water down, **STORES** rainwater in permeable areas and natural systems, and allows pollutants and sediments picked up by rainwater to be **SOAKED** into the local environment, preventing them from entering local waterways.

Where to redirect your downspout



Rain barrels collect rain water directly from downspouts during storm events. This water can be used on gardens, outdoor cleaning or to water the grass, especially during dry periods.



Rain gardens and natural buffer areas can store storm water from downspouts in their soil, allowing pollutants to be slowly filtered and taken up by native plants rather than running into local water bodies.



A downspout extender could be directed to an infiltration pit or splash pad to slow water down as it exits the pipe. This reduces erosion of surrounding soils and helps water enter nearby natural systems at a slower rate.

Design Considerations:

- Water should always flow away from the building foundation and should not be directed towards a neighbour's property.
- Avoid placing extenders over walkways, in front of doorways or in other areas where tripping could be a hazard, and be aware of icy conditions in winter months.
- Clean eavestroughs at least twice a year and address any leaks, low spots or sagging areas on your downspout/connectors.

Consult a professional for site-specific concerns. **Call before you dig:** www.on1call.com.



More resources

Follow the QR code to find more sustainable drainage resources and ideas for your property.

