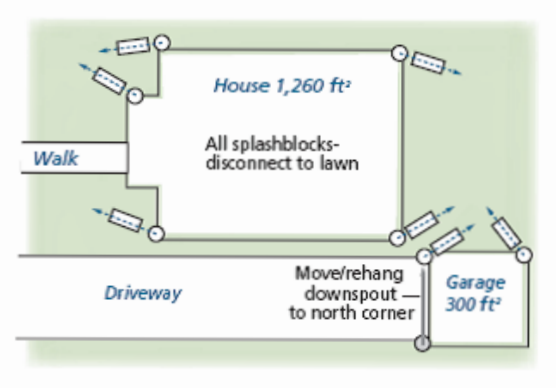
Downspout Disconnection Awareness Program

Downspout Disconnection Facts

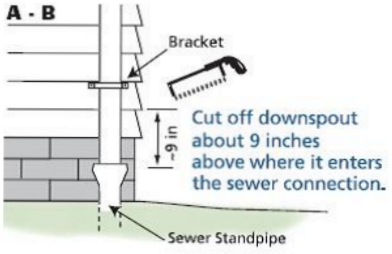
- Disconnection would help to prevent flooded basements in the Village
- Disconnection can help prevent overflows from the wastewater treatment plant into the Clinton River that can result in significant environmental fines.
- Environmental regulators across the country have been mandating such programs to control the amount of storm water that enters wastewater treatment plants.

Steps to Disconnecting Your Downspout

1. Make a site plan and design your disconnection. On your site plan, mark the downspouts that are to be disconnected and the direction of flow. Note where you might move downspouts, remove walkways, pitch gutters, and/or add extensions or elbows to get around obstructions (plants, trees, porches, sidewalks).



2. **Disconnect your downspout.** Measure your downspout from the top of the standpipe and mark it at 9 inches above the standpipe. Depending on the length of your extension, you may need to cut it higher. Cut the downspout with a hacksaw at the mark, and remove the piece. Cap or plug the standpipe with either a wing-nut test plug or rubber cap with hose clamp. Do not use concrete to seal your standpipe.



Village of Almont – Department of Public Works

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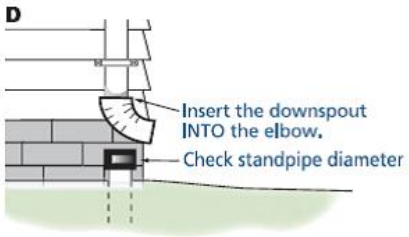
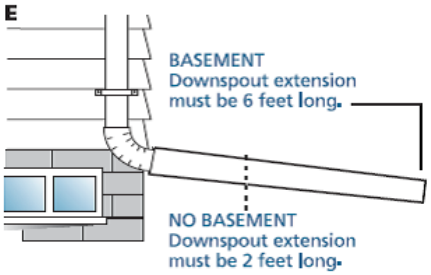
3. Attach the elbow externally over the downspout, not inside the downspout or it will leak. If the elbow does not fit, use crimpers or pliers to crimp the end of the cut downspout so it can slide inside the elbow.



4. Measure and cut your downspout extension to the desired length. Connect the extension to the elbow by slipping it over the end of the elbow. If your house is set on a crawl space or concrete slabs, your extension need only be 2 feet long. If your house has a basement, the extension must be at least 6 feet long. Once you have disconnected your downspout, you may consider adding splash blocks or gravel-filled trenches to the end of the downspout extension to prevent erosion and disperse the rainwater.



What else should I know about disconnecting my downspout?

- The slope of the ground should allow water to flow away from all structures.
- There must be enough landscaped area for the rain to safely soak into the ground. Specifically, the ground area must be at least 10 percent of the roof area. For example, if your roof is 500 square feet, you should have at least 50 square feet of landscape.
- The end of the downspout extension must be within your property line by at least 5 feet and at least 3 feet from a public sidewalk.
- Try to avoid safety hazards by not extending downspouts across walkways, patios, or driveways, or in front of gates.
- You could incorporate storm water management practices into your downspout disconnection. Consider installing a rain barrel or rain garden to capture and infiltrate rain water.