

# Help Prevent Basement Flooding

During a rainstorm, gutters and downspouts can collect and distribute hundreds of litres of water from your roof. Some residents in older areas of the City have connected their downspouts directly into the City's sewer systems.

Downspouts should direct water overland and away from your home. This will allow the water to be absorbed into the lawns and replenish the ground water.

Below is a simple way to fix your water problems caused by improper drainage.

## **Ground Water Re-charge System Clean Water Collection**

In some newer subdivisions, downspouts may be connected to a special groundwater recharge system. In these cases, downspouts disconnection is **not** required.

[Click here to see if your part of this system.](#)

### **Downspout Disconnection – Do-It-Yourself**

**Do-it-yourself instructions:** What you'll need:

- Hacksaw
- Tape measure
- Hammer
- Screw driver
- Pliers
- Sheet metal screws
- Downspout elbow
- Downspout extension
- Splash block (optional)
- Rubber cap



#### **Step One:**

Measure at least 23cm (9") from where the downspout enters the sewer connection



## Step Two:

Cut the downspout with a hacksaw



## Step Three:

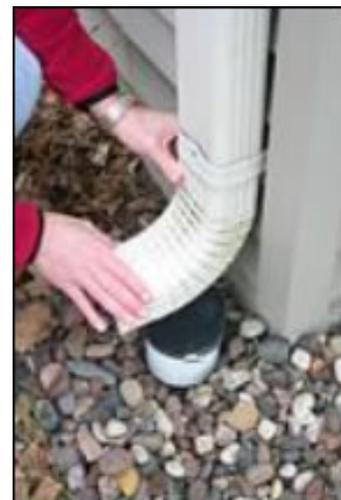
Cap the sewer standpipe. This prevents water from going in. You can use a simple rubber cap secured by a hose clamp. Or, you can also use a wing-nut test plug if available cap sizes don't fit.



## Step Four:

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.

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 pad at the end of the downspout extension.

**Please note: When redirecting the rain water from the disconnected downspout, water should flow onto your grass or garden. It is important to ensure that:**

- 1. Water flows away from your foundation walls**
- 2. Water does not negatively impact your neighbours property**
- 3. Water does not flow directly onto a sidewalk**

### Helpful Hints

- **Help prevent damage to your house, clean your eavestroughs.** Eavestroughs and downspouts can become blocked with leaves and dirt, causing them to overflow and possibly damaging your roof, soffits and foundation.
- **Keep catchbasins in front of your home free of debris.** If catchbasin grates are blocked, water is unable to enter into the storm water system.
- **Reduce and conserve water.** Rain barrels capture and store the water that lands on your roof. This stored water is excellent for watering your lawn and garden.
- **Examine the grade of your property.** The ground around your house should slope away from the house for at least 3 metres.
- **Naturalize.** Use trees, shrubs and gardens to restore natural water cycles on your property. Replace hard surfaces with permeable surfaces to allow rainfall to soak into the ground. Trees are nature's most efficient water managers.
- **Inspections.** Check your doors, windows, foundations and floors for cracks and leaks and make any necessary repairs.



**For more information contact the Public Works Department at 905-832-8562.**

## DISCLAIMER

The City cannot guarantee the accuracy or completeness of the information or its application to any particular property. Readers should where possible verify the information before acting on it. Where appropriate, professional advice and service should be sought from a knowledgeable and licensed contractor or civil engineer.

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### Ground Water Re-charge System Clean Water Collection

Residents that live on the streets listed below may be connected to a clean water collection system. If this is the case, downspout disconnection is not required.

- Aaron Goodbaum Court
- Allison Ann Way
- Alex Black Street
- Daniel Bram Drive
- Dimarino Drive
- Donzi Lane
- Eagle Landing Road
- Ferritti Street
- Giordano Way
- Gladue Street
- Israel Zilber Drive
- Lady Angela Lane
- Lady Dolores Avenue
- Lady Fenyrose Avenue
- Lady Jessica Drive
- Lady Karen Crescent
- Lady Loretta Lane
- Lady Nadia Drive
- Lady Valentina Avenue
- Lady Veronica Lane
- Little Celeste Court
- Little Hannah Lane
- Little Marco Court
- Little Natalie Court
- Luca Avenue
- Nancy Court
- Prolo Court
- Queen Filomena Avenue
- Rivermill Crescent
- Robert Green Crescent
- Sir Francesco Street
- Sir Giancarlo Court
- Sir Stevens Drive
- Sofia Olivia Crescent
- Sweet Anna Court
- Sweet Valeri Court
- Torah Gate
- Vanda Drive
- Via Romano Boulevard
- William Bowes Boulevard
- Woodville Lane
- Yemina Gate
- Zoran Lane