

The Town of Lakeshore

Downspout Disconnection Information to Residents

The following information is intended for residents that have homes connected to Municipal storm and sanitary sewers.

What are Downspouts?

Eavestroughs installed along the edge of your home's roof are used to collect storm water runoff. The eaves trough directs the runoff down the side of your home at one or more locations. They discharge the runoff either:

- At grade, on to your lawn, driveway or patio, or
- Directly connected to storm underground Private Drain Connection.

Refer to Figure 1 [[add link](#)] for examples of each.

The information contained below is intended for residents who have downspouts connected directly to their underground Private Drain Connection (PDC).

Disadvantages of Connected Downspouts

If your downspouts are connected to your underground Private Drain Connection (PDC), the flows are directed to the Municipal Storm Sewer System. The additional storm flows create a burden on existing storm sewers that among other issues can cause basement flooding (for additional information on Basement Flooding [[add link](#)]). These issues can be mitigated by disconnecting your downspout and allowing your rooftop runoff to drain into the lawn away from your homes foundation. This will allow the majority of your runoff to infiltrate into the grass and soil and reduce the amount of water flowing into the Municipal Storm Sewer System.

The benefits of disconnecting your downspouts can include:

- Reduces the risk of basement flooding;
- Reduces the amount of untreated wastewater discharged into waterways;
- Reduces cost of redesigning and installing larger sewers by creating larger sewer capacities in existing sewers;
- Free irrigation for lawns and gardens; and
- Helps replenish the groundwater reservoir and avoid flash flooding in ditches, drains, creeks or rivers.

For additional information on the economic and environmental benefits of downspout disconnection, visit http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/inpr/su/waho/waho_014.cfm

Disconnecting your Downspouts

Disconnecting your home's downspouts can be done easily and is relatively inexpensive. If you are not confident with disconnecting downspouts yourself, contact a local eaves trough contractor.

For examples of the downspout disconnection process, please visit www.youtube.com and search “downspout disconnection”. There are several instructional videos demonstrating the process.

The following are the typical required tools:

- Tin Snips
- Measuring Tape
- Screw Driver(s)
- Hacksaw
- Drill
- Pliers

The following are the typical required materials:

- Caps (required size and type will vary depending upon the pipe the downspout is connected to)
- Metal Screws
- Splash Pads
- Brackets to fasten downspout to your house (may not be required for all installations)
- Extensions
- Elbows (determine Type “A” or Type “B”, see below)

Prior to commencing work, you will need to determine the following to plan your design:

- The total number of connected downspouts on your house
- Determine the type of material your existing downspouts are made from: aluminum, steel, plastic/PVC, or copper. The most common material is aluminum. Note: Downspout elbows and extensions are available in different colours
- Determine suitable locations to direct your runoff. Where feasible, direct your downspouts to non-paved areas to reduce the risk of ice forming during the winter months;
 - Direct runoff to a location that will drain away from your home
 - Extend the downspout a minimum of 2m (6') from your foundation
 - Do not direct runoff to a location that will negatively impact your neighbour
 - Do not direct runoff directly onto a Town sidewalk
- How many/what style of downspout elbows do you require;
 - Style “A”, bends downspout away from your house
 - Style “B”, bends downspout alongside/parallel to your house
- Measure required downspout extensions

Refer to Figure 2 [[add link](#)] for disconnection examples of examples each type of downspout bend.

Installation Procedure

Option 1

- 1) Wear appropriate personal safety equipment (gloves and safety glasses as required)

- 2) Cut the downspout with a Hacksaw 225mm (9 inches) above the standpipe.
- 3) Remove the piece of downspout that was cut and cap the standpipe.
- 4) Attach the elbow to direct the flow away from your home's foundation. Crimping of the existing downspout may be required if the elbow does not fit.
- 5) Measure, cut, and attach an extension to the elbow that is recommended to have an outlet at a minimum of 1.8 meters (6 feet) away from the home's foundation.
- 6) Drill screws to secure the elbow and extension.
- 7) Add a splash pad at the end of the extension.

Option 2

Connect your eaves trough to a rain barrel to capture roof runoff for use in your home or garden. Follow the installation procedures that come with the rain barrel, and provide an overflow to direct excess runoff away from your home per Option 1 above. Rain barrels should be removed during the winter months to avoid freezing.

Contact Information

For questions regarding downspout disconnection, please contact:

The Town of Lakeshore

Engineering and Infrastructure Services Department

Public Works Services Division

(519) 728-2488