

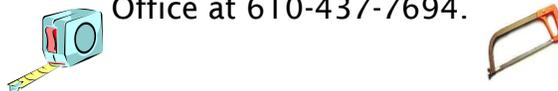


Allentown gets
an average of 45
inches of rain
per year.

Every downspout, or rain gutter, can deliver up to 50 gallons of storm water a minute during a heavy storm. “Disappearing” downspouts (those which enter standpipes connected to the sanitary sewer) burden Allentown’s sanitary sewer system with millions of gallons of unnecessary storm water flow. For this reason, city ordinances prohibit the connection of downspouts and sump pumps to the sanitary sewer. Excessive storm water flows contribute to sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) in which untreated storm water and wastewater are discharged into local waterways, resulting in contaminated streams and playing a role in flooding residential basements. Under an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrative Order, the city is requiring its residents to remove disappearing downspout connections from their property.



Downspout disconnection can be a low-maintenance option to help move water away from building foundations and allow it to soak into the ground or flow over landscaped areas and lawns. Detailed instructions for the removal and capping of illegally connected downspouts are shown in this brochure. Disconnecting the downspout includes cutting the downspout, attaching elbows, extensions, and splashblocks to direct the flow of water away from the house, plugging the standpipe, and securing the materials to existing structures. Observe your property and make a plan for disconnecting the downspouts. Tools required for this job include a hacksaw, a drill, a pair of needle-nose pliers or crimpers, a tape measure, a screwdriver, and a pencil. Necessary materials include downspout elbows and extensions, sheet metal screws, downspout brackets, and either an in-pipe plug or an over-the-pipe cap secured by a hose clamp. Most standpipes are between three and five inches wide. Be sure to measure the inside diameter of yours before purchasing materials. If you have any questions, please contact the city’s Building Standards and Safety Office at 610-437-7694.



City of Allentown



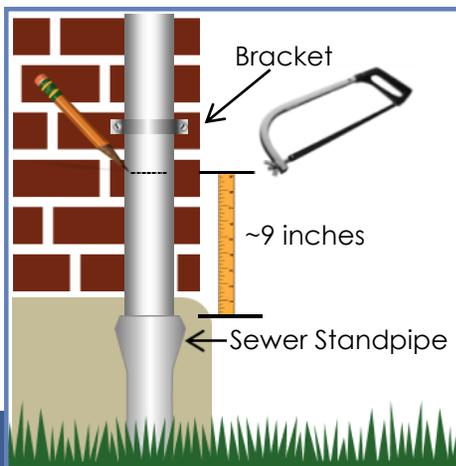
*How to manage
stormwater:*

*Downspout
Disconnection*

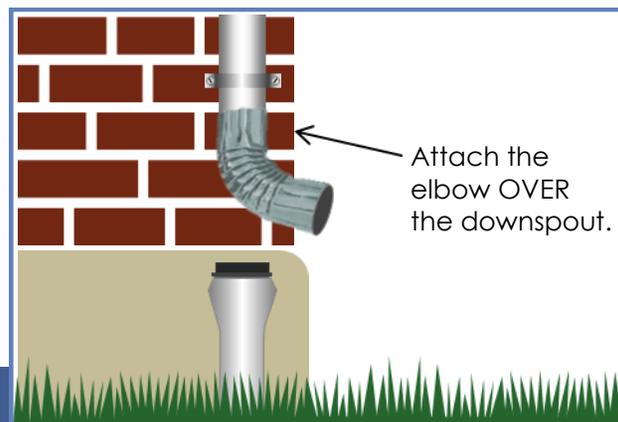


DISCONNECTING A DOWNSPOUT IS AS EASY AS 1 - 2 - 3.

1 Measure nine inches from where the downspout enters the riser pipe and mark the spot with a pencil. If there isn't a bracket securing the downspout to the siding, attach one a few inches above the pencil line using the sheet metal screws, leaving enough room to attach the new extension. Cut the downspout with the hacksaw, being careful not to cut into the siding. Carefully pull out the cut section. The edges will be sharp.



2 Plug or cap the standpipe using an in-pipe plug with wing nut or an over-the-pipe cap secured by a hose clamp. Attach an elbow OVER the cut end of the downspout. Do not insert the elbow into the downspout or it will leak. If the elbow does not fit over the downspout, use crimpers or needle-nose pliers to crimp the end of the cut downspout so it slides inside the elbow.



3 Measure and cut the downspout connection to the desired length. Downspouts must drain at least 6 feet from basement walls and at least 2 feet from crawl spaces and concrete slabs. The end of the downspout must be at least 5 feet from your property line, and possibly more if your yard slopes toward your neighbor's house. Attach the extension OVER the end of the elbow. Secure the pieces with sheet metal screws at each joint where the downspout, elbow, and extension connect. It may be helpful to pre-drill holes for the screws. Using a splash block at the end of the extension is optional, but it will help prevent soil erosion.

