

How do you disconnect your downspout?

Tools needed: hacksaw, drill, needle-nose pliers or crimpers, tape measure, screwdriver, sheet metal screws, downspout elbow and extension, cap and clamps for sewer standpipe, splash block or rain barrel.



Using a hacksaw, cut your downspout approximately 9 inches above the sewer standpipe, or if installing a rainbarrel, make your cut above the barrel according to the manufacturer's instructions.

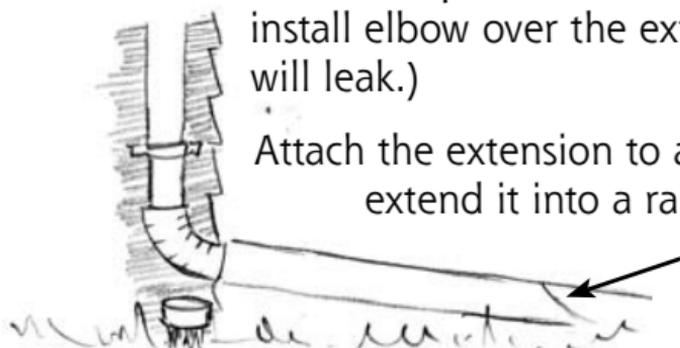
STANDPIPE

Plug or cap the standpipe using an over the pipe cap secured by a hose clamp. (Do not seal the standpipe with concrete!)



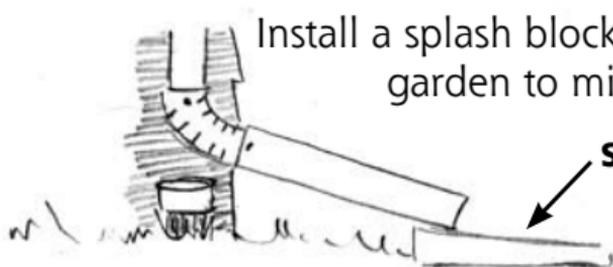
Insert downspout INTO the elbow and attach using sheet metal screws and predrilled holes. (Do not insert the elbow up inside the downspout or it will leak).

Insert the elbow into the extension and attach using sheet metal screws and pre-drilled holes. (Do not install elbow over the extension or it will leak.)



Attach the extension to a rain barrel or extend it into a rain garden.

EXTENSION



Install a splash block in your rain garden to minimize erosion.

SPLASH BLOCK

How do I determine if I can disconnect my downspout?

First, check with your local municipality about any special rules or regulations they have about installing stormwater management structures on your property.

Look where your downspouts flow. If they are not connected to a sewer system, then you may not need to disconnect them.

Examine your yard to see if you have enough space. Stormwater discharge points must be:

- 2 feet from a building without a basement
- 6 feet from a building with a basement (10 feet if you are installing a dry well)
- 5 feet from a neighbor's property
- 10 feet from a neighbor's building
- 10 feet from a retaining wall.

The slope of your property must be less than 10% and drain away from any structure. Visit www.raingardenalliance.org for step-by-step instructions to calculate the slope of your yard.

Avoid: public sidewalks, septic systems, drain fields, or underground storage tanks.

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

Decide how you are going to manage your stormwater and have all the materials ready for installation *before* you disconnect.

Use only durable, gutter grade materials.

Clean gutters twice per year and monitor downspouts and extensions for clogging.

Maintain your rain barrel, rain garden, or dry well as instructed.

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