

# DOWNSPOUT DISCONNECTION FACT SHEET

Downspout Disconnection diverts rooftop runoff from direct discharge into a storm sewer system and spreads flows across lawns, vegetated areas, and other pervious areas, where runoff may be slowed, filtered and possibly infiltrated before reaching collection systems. Downspout Disconnection may be combined with other water management methods such as rainwater harvesting. This seemingly insignificant element, if applied across a neighborhood or community, can provide meaningful relief to a struggling storm sewer system by reducing the volume of water introduced during a rainfall event.

Implementation of this strategy is applicable wherever downspouts are in use through a variety of different methods. Outflows should be directed away from foundations and sidewalks and avoided in areas where it may cause soil erosion.



Downspout connected to a French drain;  
source: prosprinkler.com



Downspout connected to rain barrel;  
source: prairielandsgcd.org

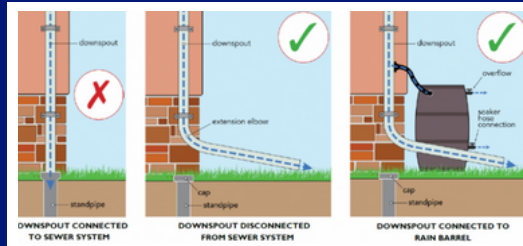



Diagram of how disconnection works;  
source: Dewater.com



**HYDROLOGIC  
FUNCTION**

Primarily concerned with volume control, but can provide infiltration or detention depending on method use



**POLLUTANT  
REMOVAL**

Downspout disconnections can remove pollutants in conjunction with other green infrastructure elements



**SOIL  
SUITABILITY**

Directing downspout outflows directly onto loose soil susceptible to erosion should be avoided



**HABITAT  
VALUE**

Provides no significant benefit to the natural environment



**COMMUNITY  
VALUE**

Reduction in volume means less strain on pumps which reduces potential flooding and property damage

Scan here for more information

