

## Help Prevent Basement Flooding

During a rainstorm, gutters and downspouts can collect and distribute hundreds of liters of water from your roof. Some residents in older areas of the town have connected their downspouts directly into the Town'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. Arnprior's sewer use by-law requires that all downspouts be disconnected from sewers by June 1, 2014. Below are simple directions to complete a downspout disconnection.

### Downspout Disconnection Do-it-yourself

#### What You Will 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 23 cm (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 the 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 insure that:**

- **Water flows away from your foundation walls**
- **Water does not negatively impact your neighbours property**
- **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 leave and dirt, causing them to overflow and possibly damaging your roof, soffits and foundation.
- **Keep catch basins in front of your home free of debris.** If catch basin 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 meters.
- **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.

## Disclaimer

The Town 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 civic engineer

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