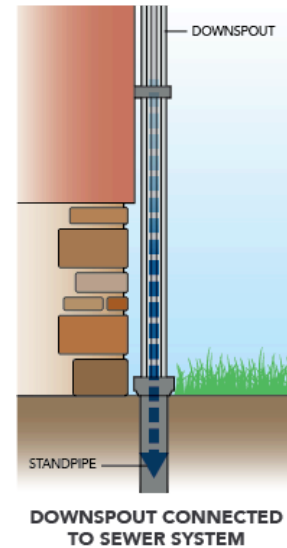
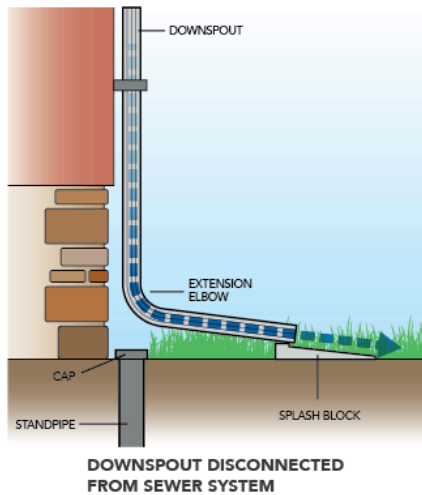


Downspout Disconnection

The Key to Avoid Backups!

What is a downspout?

Most buildings have gutters that collect rainwater from a roof. Downspouts transport water from the roof of a building to the ground. When a downspout is connected directly to the sewer system, unwanted rainwater enters the sewer.



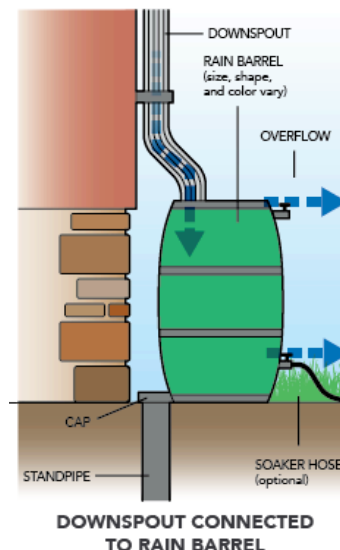
Isn't water entering the sewer a good thing?

Downspouts connected to sewer systems increase the amount of water being sent to the wastewater treatment plant. During rain events, clean rainwater can overwhelm the sanitary sewer system and lead to combined sewer overflows into rivers, basements, and other areas that are susceptible to flooding. By disconnecting downspouts, the sanitary sewers will be less overwhelmed with clean rainwater.

What happens after disconnection?

Once the downspout is disconnected from the sewer, there are a few different things you can do!

Redirecting the downspout outflow into vegetation or a garden is one way to use rainwater to your advantage. Another alternative is to set up a rain barrel to catch the rainwater. This way, the rainwater collected can be used for a multitude of things.



Who should disconnect?

Everyone! Any downspouts that discharge stormwater into sanitary sewers are against Newark City Code. All stormwater should be directed to a storm drain, surface drain, or some other stormwater collection apparatus. Helping decrease the amount of water in the sanitary sewer will ensure flooding and backups are kept to a minimum!

How to Disconnect Your Downspout



Step 1- Cut downspout from sewer pipe
Saw off downspout 9-12 inches from where it connects with the sewer line



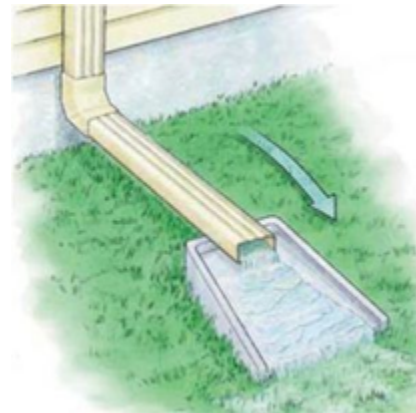
Step 3- Attach elbow to downspout
Connect the two by inserting the downspout into the elbow, which then inserts into an extension pipe to ensure the outflow of rainwater is away from any structures. Once connected, use a drill to create holes on either side of the fitting and secure fittings together using sheet metal screws.

- Materials needed**
- Sheet metal screws
 - Standpipe expansion cap
 - downspout elbow and extension
 - splash block/ rocks

- Tools needed**
- hacksaw
 - drill
 - needle-nosed pliers
 - screwdriver
 - tape measure
 - shovel



Step 2- Plug sewer line
Use an expansion cap or plug and place over the open sewer line
Tip: measure the diameter of the sewer line pipe to find the best fitting cap



Step 4- create outflow spot
Add a splash block to the end of the extension, or set up extension pipe to discharge in a small, rock-filled ditch.
Tip: if you want to use rainwater for other areas in your garden or yard, look in to setting up a rain barrel!



For a video tutorial and other tips for helping improve our storm water clean, please visit our website at <https://www.newarkohio.gov/stormwater-utility/>