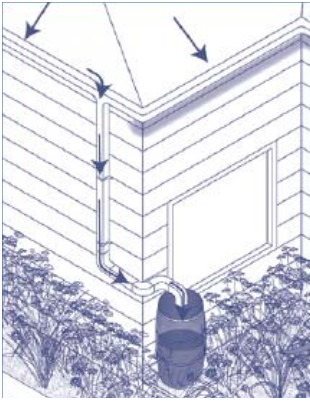


## Managing Stormwater at Home A How-to Guide

### Why use a Rain Barrel?



Did you know that a 1,000 square foot roof will accept 625 gallons of water in a one-inch storm? Where is all this water going? If it is going to a combined storm sewer, it increases the chance of basement flooding.

One way to keep the initial "surge" of stormwater out of the sewer is to use one or more 55 gallon rain barrels.

- Choose a downspout on your house or garage that is close to the plants you water most.
- If you are disconnecting a downspout from the sewer system, follow the disconnection steps through Step 2.

Rain barrel connected to disconnected downspout

- Place your barrel under the downspout elbow, so the water from the downspout enters through the screen on the top of the barrel.
- Raising the rain barrel up on concrete blocks will make it easier to use the spigot and hose for watering your garden, filling a watering can or washing your car.

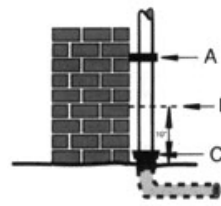
### Where do I get a Rain Barrel?

Rain Barrels may be purchased from **Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD)** for only \$40 each at [www.mwr.org](http://www.mwr.org) or call 312-751-6633 or email [publicaffairsinfo@mwr.org](mailto:publicaffairsinfo@mwr.org).

### Step-by-step instructions to disconnect a downspout

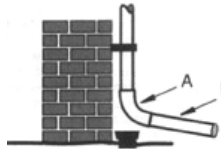
Tools: hacksaw, measuring tape, screw driver & pliers, sheet metal screws, a downspout elbow, quick dry mortar cement or a rubber cap.

#### STEP 1



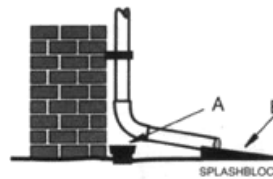
- A) Drill a 1/4" hole in mortar joint and hammer stand-off bracket into wall; attach the downspout.
- B) Cut downspout appx. 10" above the ground using a hack saw. Distance will vary.
- C) Loosen mortar cement from drain tile, and remove lower portion of down spout.

#### STEP 2



- A) Place the larger end of elbow over edge of downspout, hold elbow in place and drill a hole in each side. Secure with metal screws.
- B) Place the end of the extension over elbow. Hold extension in place and drill a hole on each side. Secure extension with metal screws.

#### STEP 3



- A) Plug top of drain with crumpled newspaper and fill to top with at least 1" of mortar cement or rubber cap.
- B) Optional: Install a splashblock to keep stormwater from side of home and to protect against erosion.



## How you can help manage stormwater

#### Disconnect Your Downspout



The goal is to reduce the amount and speed of stormwater leaving your property and entering the sewer.

**Disconnect Your Downspout:** The first step to managing stormwater at home is disconnecting your downspout from the sewer system if conditions are right.

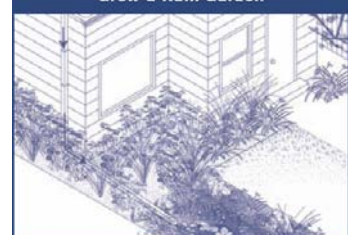
**Install a Rain Barrel:** Save the water in a rain barrel for later use.

**Install a Rain Garden:** Direct the water to landscaping with deep roots such as a rain garden with native plants to soak up even more stormwater than a typical lawn.

**Install Permeable Paving:** Install permeable paving on your patio or driveway to let the water soak in below while still providing the hard surface you need.

Or a combination of the above

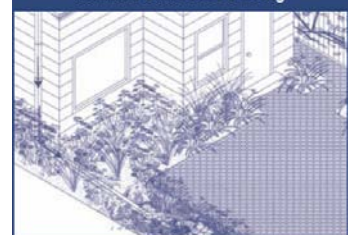
#### Grow a Rain Garden



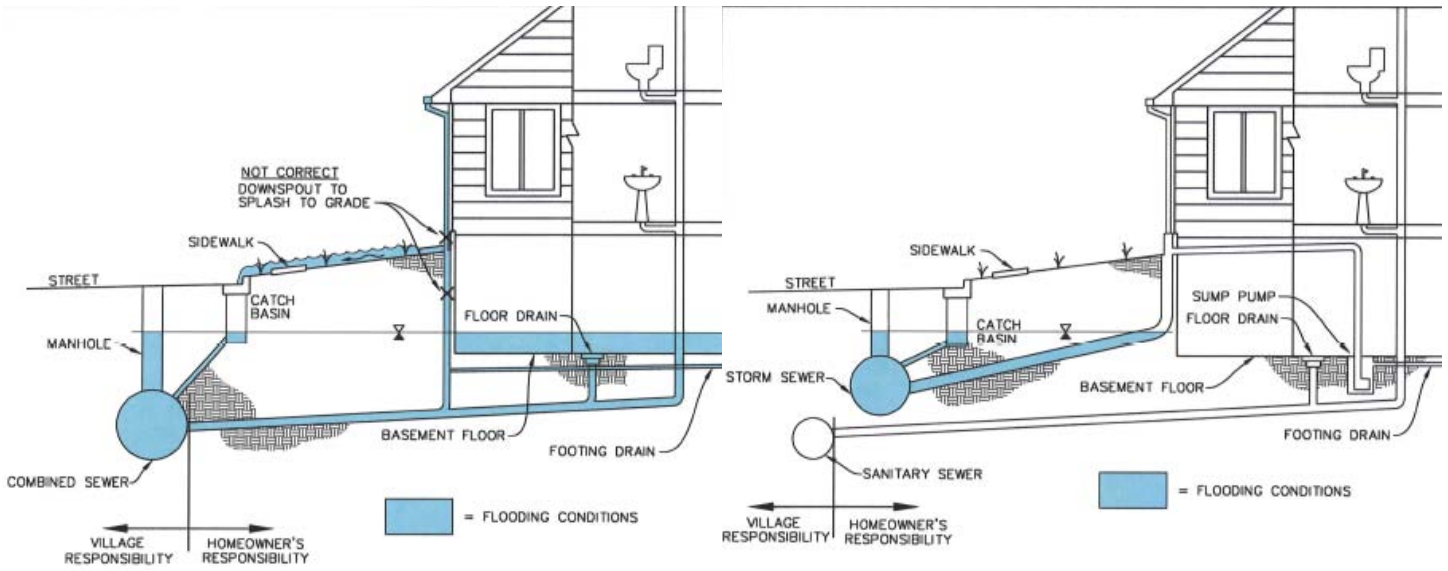
#### Install a Rain Barrel



#### Install Permeable Paving



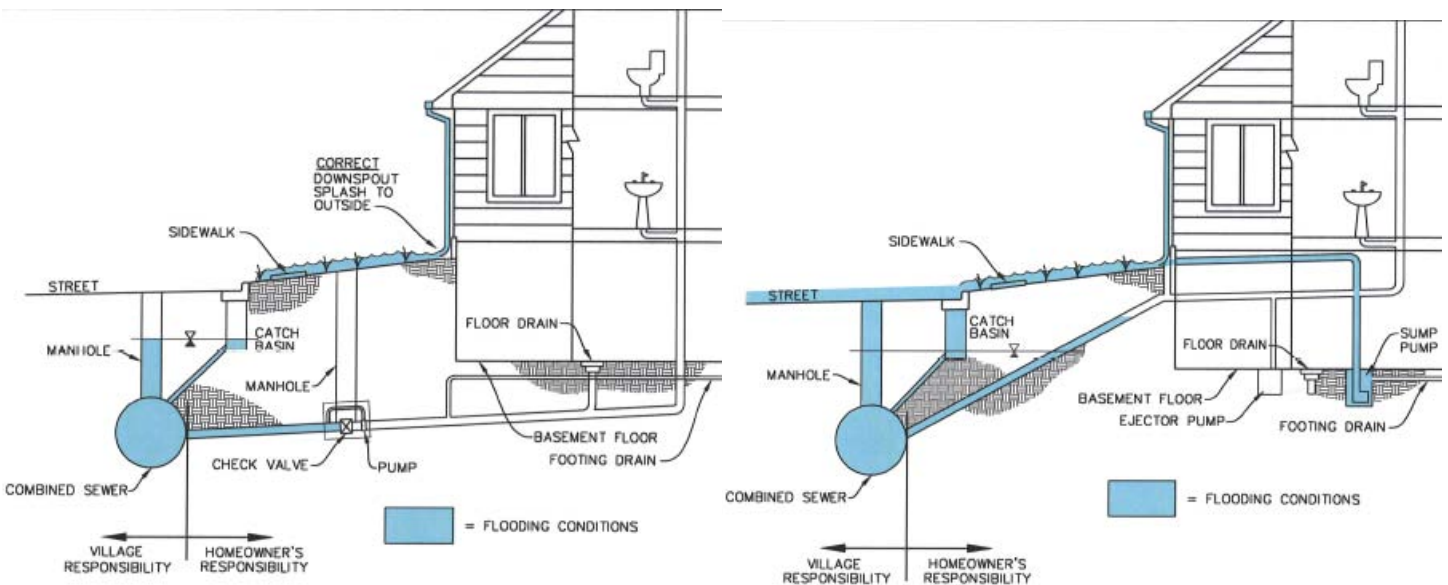
# Stormwater Management: Which System Do You Have?



COMBINED SANITARY  
AND STORM SEWERS  
(NO FLOOD CONTROL)

SEPARATED SANITARY  
AND STORM SEWERS

## TYPICAL RESIDENTIAL STORM & SANITARY SYSTEMS



COMBINED SANITARY AND  
STORM SEWERS WITH  
CHECK VALVE & PUMP

COMBINED SEWER WITH  
OVERHEAD PLUMBING