



Permit & Development Center

809 N. Broadway, Milwaukee, WI 53202 | (414) 286-8211 | milwaukee.gov/permits | DevelopmentCenterInfo@milwaukee.gov

Any building may discharge roof rainwater leaders, conductors or downspouts to finished grade when the discharge meets all of the following provisions:

1. The point of discharge must be a minimum of 2 feet from a basement or a foundation wall or alley property line and 5 feet from all other property lines.
2. The discharge must flow parallel to or away from the nearest property line.
3. The discharge water must not discharge to a street, alley or other public way.
4. The discharge water must not create an icy condition on any pedestrian walkways within or adjacent to the subject premises lot lines.
5. The downspout hub must be sealed with a 1" concrete cap or in a manner approved by the commissioner.

Whenever discharge to finished grade cannot meet all of those provisions, all roof rainwater leaders, conductors or downspouts must be mechanically connected to the storm sewer or combined sewer, or to an approved storm sewer facility when they are available and abutting the property. This includes parcels that have access by easement or private roads when the storm sewer is available at the point of access.

Any of the required provisions may be waived by the commissioner if the property owner submits, and the commissioner accepts, plans for a discharge system designed by a registered civil engineer for the purpose of complying with the intent of those provisions.

The complete text of the ordinance regarding rainwater discharge is found in the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances, Ch. 225-4.