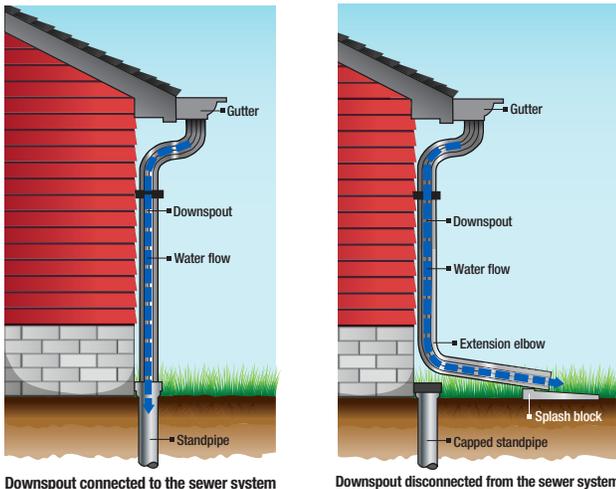


**FAQs**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is downspout disconnection?

In the past, roof downspouts of residential parcels within the City of Milwaukee were required to be directly connected to the sewer system. In 2014 the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) revised its Rules and Regulations and required these downspouts be disconnected from the combined sewer system.

**Why is downspout disconnection important?**

Like many cities, the older areas of the City of Milwaukee's sewer system carry both rain water, also known as clear water, and sanitary sewage in a combined sewer system to be treated by MMSD's wastewater treatment plant.

A large source of clear water within the combined sewer is from rain that falls on your roof and is collected by rain gutters and downspouts that are directly connected to the sewer system. During rainstorms, this additional clear water can overwhelm sewer pipes and MMSD's treatment plant which can lead to street flooding, basement sewage backups, and sewage overflows directly into our neighboring waterways. Disconnecting downspouts that are directly connected to the sewer system can help reduce these negative effects.

Who is required to disconnect?

Owners of residential properties with four (4) units or less that are located within the combined sewer area may be required to disconnect their downspouts. In general, the combined sewer area spans from Capitol Drive to Oklahoma Avenue and Lake Michigan to North 60th Street. You can look up your address using the interactive map located on the program's website at www.milwaukee.gov/DDP.

Are all downspouts required to be disconnected?

No. Downspouts must meet the following criteria in order to be properly disconnected:

- Have five (5) feet of space from a property line and foundation walls
- Have enough grassy or landscaped area to take the flow
- Not cause an icy condition or a nuisance to neighboring properties
- Not flow onto public property (alley, sidewalk)
- Discharge to a level surface and not cause erosion

How do I know if my downspouts are required to be disconnected?

In the spring of 2019, you will receive a letter from the City that will inform you whether or not you may be required to disconnect one (1) or more of your downspouts. In you have downspouts that may require disconnection, the letter will explain the next steps to be taken.

What is the cost to disconnect my downspouts?

For the first two (2) years of the program (2019-2020) the City will offer financial assistance to property owners to complete the disconnection work. During this time, the property owner can choose to have a City-hired contractor complete the required disconnection(s) using standard materials and techniques, or complete the disconnection work themselves and receive a limited rebate. More information on how to take advantage of these options will be provided in spring 2019.

Are there penalties if I choose not to disconnect?

Disconnection will become mandatory on **January 1, 2021**. If by then you have not disconnected, you will be out of compliance with the City of Milwaukee's plumbing code. Non-compliant property owners will be notified by the Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS) where additional inspections and fees may apply.

Contact Information

For additional questions about the program, visit www.milwaukee.gov/DDP or contact the City's Call Center at (414) 286-CITY.