



PENNSYLVANIA  
AMERICAN WATER

WE KEEP LIFE FLOWING™



# DOWNSPOUT DISCONNECTION

## A Better Way to Manage Stormwater

### WHAT IS A DOWNSPOUT DISCONNECTION?

Disconnection is a low-maintenance and inexpensive option to help move stormwater away from your home's foundation and prevent it from entering the wastewater collection system, allowing it to soak into the ground at a natural rate.

### WHY SHOULD I DISCONNECT MY DOWNSPOUTS?

In many older homes, stormwater runoff flows into cast-iron standpipes around the foundation which ultimately connect to a sewer pipe. The rainwater flowing into these pipes easily becomes polluted and adds to the water that enters our wastewater collection system. At times, this causes the collection system to overflow into local waterways. Downspouts can be disconnected from the collection system and redirected to a yard or garden. When you contain the runoff on your property, you help reduce pollution that impacts local waterways.

### HOW CAN I DISCONNECT MY DOWNSPOUT?\*

1. Observe your site and assess specific needs. Be sure to consider the following: proper slope, soil drainage, property lines and obstructions.
2. Prepare a detailed plan and design your disconnection.
3. Gather required supplies/materials.
4. Disconnect your downspouts so they allow water to flow away from all structures. Disconnection includes: cutting the downspout; attaching elbows, extensions and splash blocks to direct the water flow away from the house; and plugging the standpipe.
5. Properly maintain gutters, downspouts and landscaping areas to reduce future runoff issues.

\* For detailed instructions on this process, visit us online at [pennsylvaniaamwater.com](http://pennsylvaniaamwater.com).

Downspout disconnection reduces stormwater in the wastewater collection system. Storing roof runoff for irrigation or gray water systems conserves potable water and can reduce water bills. Disconnection is economical, effective, and easily integrated into landscape design. Through this simple process, you can do your part to improve water quality in our local community.

**NOTE:** Downspout disconnection may not be appropriate for all locations. Consider local regulations and location in which the water will be directed to avoid property damage, unsafe conditions or other potential problems.



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### CUSTOMER SERVICE

1-800-565-7292

Hours: 7 a.m.–7 p.m., M-F;  
For emergencies,  
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