

## HOUSEKEEPING HINTS TO REDUCE RISK OF BASEMENT FLOODING

### Clean your eavestroughs twice every year

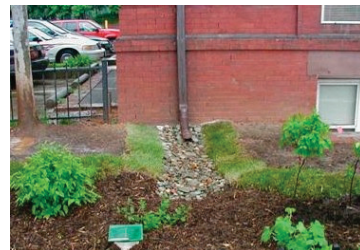
Eavestroughs and downspouts collect water off the roof and direct it away from the house.

Eavestroughs and downspouts can be blocked by leaves and dirt. Blocked eavestroughs and downspouts may overflow and damage can occur to your roof, soffits and foundation. Rainwater can enter your basement.

Downspouts should be directed as far away from the building wall and foundation as possible. Once the rainwater is directed out onto the ground, be sure that it has a place to go. Don't let it run back towards the house. Keep sideyard water flow paths open, and catchbasins free of debris.

### Stop run-off

Catch the rain that lands on your property. Store the water for later use in a rain barrel or rain harvesting system, or simply allow it to soak into your lawn or garden. The more surface water you can retain and harvest on your lot, the less rain water will get into our sanitary and storm sewer system.



### Keep storm water catchbasins free of blockage



Please help keep street catchbasins clear of dirt and debris.

### Basement windows and doors

Take measures to ensure that rain water and surface run-off don't enter basement window wells, casements and stairways. Make sure the ground around the foundation slopes away from the house. You can also enclose basement window wells to keep rain water from collecting.



Ensure water does not run into window wells.

### Naturalize

Use trees, shrubs and gardens to restore the natural water cycle on your property. Replace hard surfaces with permeable surfaces to allow rainfall to soak into the ground. Trees are nature's most efficient water managers.

## CONTACT US

If you have questions about this program, or the investigation and testing, contact us: [customerservice@markham.ca](mailto:customerservice@markham.ca) or 905-475-4862

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**905-477-5530**

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# SANITARY SYSTEM DOWNSPOUT DISCONNECTION PROGRAM

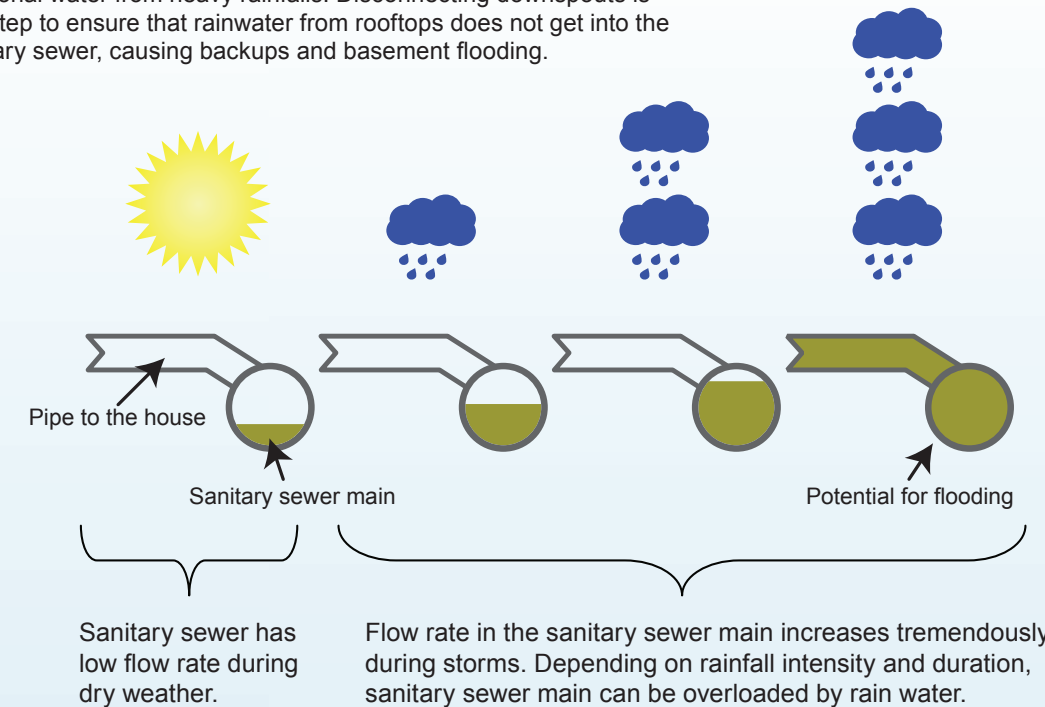
## DISCONNECTING THE IDENTIFIED DOWNSPOUTS

### WHAT THE CITY HAS DONE TO DATE?

In order to ensure that residential downspouts are not connected to the sanitary sewer (waste water) system, Markham has conducted testing in your area to confirm which downspouts are discharging into our sanitary sewer system. The testing results have identified that some homes have downspouts connected to the sanitary sewer system and need to be disconnected.

### WHY DOWNSPOUT DISCONNECTION IS IMPORTANT

Connected downspouts cause direct inflow to sanitary sewers during rain storms. Our sanitary sewer system is not designed to carry the additional water from heavy rainfalls. Disconnecting downspouts is one step to ensure that rainwater from rooftops does not get into the sanitary sewer, causing backups and basement flooding.



## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Markham's Sewer Bylaw prohibits downspouts to be connected to the sanitary sewer system. Markham Council has approved a financial assistance plan to assist homeowners with the cost to disconnect their downspouts from the sanitary sewer system. Only homeowners who receive a disconnection notice from the City will be eligible.

- The City will reimburse 80% of the total disconnection cost up to a maximum of \$500 for eligible homeowners.
- The City will reimburse 100% of the cost for a rain barrel up to a maximum of \$150 for eligible homeowners.

Payment will be issued upon submission of a detailed application package and after inspection by the City.

\* Please refer to your disconnection notice for details on the reimbursement procedure.

## DISCONNECTING DOWNSPOUTS IS EASY!

### WHAT WILL I NEED?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• sheet metal screws</li><li>• rubber or plastic plugs or caps</li><li>• downspout elbows</li><li>• downspout extensions</li><li>• plastic or concrete splash blocks</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• hacksaw</li><li>• tape measure</li><li>• screw driver</li><li>• pliers</li></ul> |
|--|--|



Disconnecting a downspout from the sanitary sewer system benefits the community and the environment

Tools you need



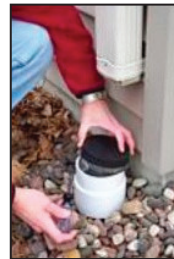
Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4



Be sure that the slope of the ground allows for water to flow away from all structures. Direct the storm water to a storage device, lawn or garden. It is recommended that disconnected downspouts be extended to discharge water at least one meter from any structure's foundation (including your neighbour's) or public sidewalk and 2.5 meters from retaining walls.

## DOWNSPOUT DISCONNECTION

### Things to consider

- Repair all cracks in walls, floors, doors, windows and foundations.
- Ensure downspouts are disconnected and drain properly away from foundation walls.
- When disconnecting downspouts, remember not to drain directly onto neighbouring properties, lanes or sidewalks.
- Ensure eavestroughs are clean and drain properly.
- Ensure the ground slopes away from the house for a minimum of one metre.
- Obtain professional advice and service from a knowledgeable and licensed roofer, eavestrough contractor or civil engineer.

## USE OF RAIN BARRELS IN DISCONNECTING DOWNSPOUTS: AN OLD IDEA THAT STILL MAKES SENSE

A rain barrel collects and stores rainwater from downspouts and rooftops for watering lawns and gardens. Rain barrels can be constructed in a number of ways, but they all serve the same purpose — to collect rainwater and decrease the amount of storm water runoff that leaves your property. During the summer months it is estimated that nearly 40% of household water is used for lawn and garden maintenance. A rain barrel collects water and stores it for those times that you need it most — during the dry summer months. Using rain barrels can help homeowners lower water bills and improve the vitality of lawns, plants, flowers and trees.

Rain barrels are easy to install and provide relatively clean water for non-drinking purposes. It's a simple idea but one that can reduce domestic water use, water bills and demands on the municipal water system — especially during summer water peak use. Equally important, it puts natural water back into the environment and not into the sewer system.

### TIPS

- A splash pad is required to be installed with the rain barrel, located under the barrel's tap and overflow spout, in order to direct roof water away from your home's foundation walls.
- Install the rain barrel on a strong, level surface as it can weigh up to 1200 lbs when full - a patio or paving stone is ideal.
- If the barrel is slightly elevated, an attached hose can use gravity to feed water toward a garden or lawn.
- To limit mosquito-breeding, ensure that your barrel is mosquito/vector proof. Most manufactured rain barrels come with this feature.
- Drain your rain barrel before each storm event to allow for full capacity and before the winter to prevent cracking.

