



# HOW TO DISCONNECT A DOWNSPOUT

These steps to disconnect downspout(s) are general recommendations. The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) recommends hiring a licensed professional if additional work is needed.

## STEP 1

Determine if the pipe where the downspout attaches is a **bell shape** or **straight**.



*Bell Pipe*



*Straight Pipe*

## STEP 2

Measure approximately 9" from where the downspout enters the storm drain pipe.



## STEP 3

Cut the downspout with a hacksaw where you measured and right above where the downspout enters the pipe. Remove that section of downspout.



## SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Work Gloves
- Eye Protection
- Dust mask
- Hacksaw
- Measuring Tape
- Marker
- Pliers
- Screwdriver
- Downspout elbow and extension

## SUPPLIES NEEDED IN STEP 4

- For straight pipe use
  - Rubber cap with hose clamp.
- For bell pipe use
  - Concrete
  - Chicken wire
  - Newspaper
  - Bucket
  - Putty Knife
  - Towel or clean rag

## STEP 4

**NOTE:** Be sure to follow each part of this step in full, or there may be a sewage smell.

**Bell Shape Pipe:** Cut about 1 foot by 1 foot amount of chicken wire and form into cup shape. Place into the pipe just below the bell. Add crumpled newspaper on the top of the mesh (this will help ensure the concrete doesn't leak down into the sewer). Mix the concrete according to the direction (stiff mixture) and add concrete until it is flush with the top of the bell pipe.



**Straight Pipe:** Cap the sewer pipe. This prevents water from going in. In most cases, you should be able to use a rubber cap secured by a hose clamp. Use a screwdriver or ratchet to tighten the cap until it is secure.



## STEP 5

Insert the downspout into the elbow. You may need to crimp the end of the downspout with a pair of pliers to get a good fit. (You may want to secure the downspout with a screw or rivet).



## STEP 6

Attach a downspout extension to carry water away from the house and foundation. We recommend 5 feet in a direction away from foundations, sidewalks, and driveways. It is critical to make sure that disconnecting your downspout and redirecting the water does not cause a hazard or nuisance to you or your neighbors!

