

Rain to stream: how homeowners can help keep our water clean

Downspout Disconnect Program

Technical assistance form

Address: _____

Property ID No.: _____

Property Contact Name: _____

Contact phone: _____

Contact email: _____

Instructions:

1. Draw footprint of house on the grid.
2. Add location of pavement, including driveway, sidewalks, patios, etc.
3. Add landscape beds around the house.
4. Add property lines / boundaries.
5. Mark location of downspouts.
2. Calculate square footage of roof. Multiply by 0.1 (10%).
3. Verify if there is 10% space available for dispersion.
4. Choose type of dispersion feature (see reverse).

Funding for this project made available by the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board in coordination with Clark County through the Clark County Clean Water Restoration Fund

A partnership project with:



Let the water soak in Tips:



Splash block

Move water away from home and foundation to disperse into a lawn or landscape area.

- Position block underneath the end of the downspout.
- Make sure gravity can provide positive flow out of the downspout and the end is lower than the elbow connection.
- If needed, use rocks or blocks to hold the end of the extension in place on the splash block.



Infiltration trench

Move water away from home and foundation into a trench filled with stones or rocks to let water slowly seep into the ground.

- Dig a trench at least 6 feet away from the house.
- Line trench with landscape fabric and fill with stone.
- Use a downspout extension if needed to reach trench.
- Make trench 1-3 feet wide to allow sufficient volume to hold the appropriate volume of water from the section of house.



Permeable pavers

Direct water from downspout extension to a permeable surface sidewalk or patio and let water soak in.

- Follow manufacturer's instructions for paver installation.
- Make sure to use landscape fabric and stone under rock to allow sufficient area for water to seep into the ground.
- Direct downspout 6 feet from house onto pavers if freezing conditions will not cause a safety hazard.



Rain planters

A raised planter box to receive water and add beauty to the yard. Has overflow to direct excess water to landscape.

- Build or purchase planter from durable materials. Follow manufacturer's instructions for fabricated planter.
- Position downspout to enter box with stone or rock to help disperse water evenly into box.
- Position overflow from box to an area 6 feet from house.



Rain gardens

Direct downspout extension to a shallow depression that is planted with grasses and flowers that can tolerate some wet roots.

- Follow design and installation guidelines from the *Rain Garden Handbook for Western Washington*.
- Ensure the downspout enters the garden with a splash dispersion feature to avoid eroding the soil and mulch.
- Locate the overflow so that water moves away from the garden and not towards a structure or walkway.



Rain barrels or cisterns

Collect and reuse rainwater for watering in the yard or garden while directing overflow into a lawn or landscaped area.

- Measure height for spout cut to include the barrel and any element that the barrel will sit on, such as stone or paver.
- Install per manufacturer's instructions and double check all seals to prevent leaking.
- Make sure spout is easily accessible and away from the house.

Want to learn more about how to protect our creeks, streams and rivers?

Clark County Clean Water Division: www.clark.wa.gov/stormwater "What you can do"

Clark Conservation District: www.clarkcd.org/best-management-practices

