

Downspout Inspection Checklist

You can use the following checklist to complete your own Property Drainage Inspection and identify opportunities to minimize future drainage and/or basement flooding problems.

- Downspouts extend at least two meters from the foundation to a surface sloped away from the foundation.
 - Downspout should never extend into backfill soil zone flower/shrub bedding, settled area, window well, basement entry well or below-grade driveway well.

- Downspout yard drain outlet is visible.
 - If you can't locate your downspout yard drain, it may be due to a possible buried outlet. You should know where your downspouts discharge and verify that your yard drain outlet is never buried or obstructed.

- Downspout yard drains are clear of debris and outlets are not obstructed.
 - Obstructed yard drains and outlets will not function efficiently during rainfall events and could result in water back-ups around your home.
 - Downspout yard drains should be inspected regularly.

- Downspouts are not connected to the building's foundation weeping tile and/or sanitary drain.
 - If you're not sure where your Downspouts drain underground, disconnect the downspout from the below ground standpipe and permanently cap the standpipe by tightly stuffing rags into the pipe and filling the void above the rags with concrete.
 - Then, extend the downspout at least 2 metres from the foundation to a surface sloped away from the foundation.

- Standpipe has been permanently capped.
 - If you or the previous homeowner has already taken the first step to downspout disconnection, you should confirm that the old standpipe is permanently capped.

- Permanently cap an old standpipe by tightly stuffing rags into the pipe and filling the void above the rags with concrete.

Grass is sloping nicely away from my house foundation.

- Settled and flat areas around the foundation should be filled in with clay and sod to slope away from the foundation (preferably 2%).
- For difficult grading situations, consider using a rain barrel to hold roof water and/or installation of a yard drain to direct roof water away from the back fill soil zone.

My Rain Barrel looks great and is saving me money on my water bill! It also feels great to know I'm helping save the environment.

- If you don't have a rain barrel, what are you waiting for? The use of Rain Barrels is gaining in popularity; you can find them at many local retailers within the Niagara Region.
- The City of Welland also subsidizes fantastic barrels that will not only save you money on your water bill but could potentially reduce the risk of flooding to your property where downspout drainage is a problem.

Congratulations, you've taken an important first step by considering the downspout drainage at your home.

If you have any questions or concerns related to the drainage at your property please do not hesitate to contact Amanda Degazio at 905-735-1700 ext.2221.

