

WHY MUST THE DOWNSPOUTS BE REMOVED?

1. The Department of Environmental Protection has mandated the Altoona Water Authority to stop basement flooding in low-lying areas of the City of Altoona.
2. It is unlawful to discharge non-contaminated wastewater to the collection system. This was established by Ordinance of the City of Altoona and the Altoona Water Authority (see back cover).
3. The illegal discharge creates an overload in the collection system during heavy rains causing back-up of sewage into basements and the streets.

THE REGULATION

ARTICLE V - Use of the Public Sewer Section 2: Discharges Not Containing Sewage

The discharge of waters not containing sewage is prohibited. Except with the approval of the Environmental Services Manager, or as otherwise provided in the Wastewater System Regulations; no storm water connection from any building or yard (including down spouts, roof leaders, gutters, area drains, French Drains, and sump pumps); nor any drain from any catch basin, lake, pond or swimming pool; nor any outlet for surface water, storm water, or groundwater of any kind, nor channels which may at anytime carry surface drainage from hydraulic pressure or well points; shall be connected to the ACA collection system or any public sewer tributary thereto or to any private sewer connected to any such public sewer. Such discharges of water described above may only be connected to combined sewers, storm sewers, or natural outlets.



MANDATORY REMOVAL OF DOWNSPOUTS FROM THE WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM

Altoona Water Authority
Wastewater Division
20 Greenwood Road
Altoona, PA 16602
Phone: 814-949-2222
Fax: 814-949-2254

Tools You Will Need

To remove the down spouts from your sewer you will need a hammer, hacksaw, drill with 1/16th bit, metal screws or pop rivets, rags or paper, and cement to seal the open terra cotta pipe.

This list of tools is based on the simplest of removals. Larger projects may require other tools and/or equipment not indicated.

Where to Buy Supplies for This Project

The elbows, down spouting, screws or pop rivets, and cement may be purchased at any home improvement warehouse or hardware store. A variety of products are available in aluminum or plastic. Both are acceptable for this project.



How to Remove the Down Spouts

This section describes a typical removal when 2, 3 or 4 down spouts are run through the foundation and into the collection system.

1. Using the hammer, break away any cement holding the spouting in place within the terra cotta pipe and down spout connection.
2. Using the hacksaw cut a portion of down spout about six-inches (6") to one-foot (1') above the pipe so that either an elbow or a new section of down spout may be attached.
3. Attach the new section of pipe, elbow, or other rain spouting to divert the water from the original connection.
4. Drill two (2) holes where the new connection meets the existing down spout to secure it. Place either the screws or rivets into the spouting to connect them.
5. Crumple brown paper bags or place rags into the terra cotta pipe. Keep the paper bags or rags even to the inside pipe.
6. Mix the cement and place into the larger opening. Cement

should be level with the outside edge of the terra cotta pipe.

NOTE: If any of the terra cotta pipe breaks during this work, it is not a problem. The paper or rags may be placed deeper into the smaller opening.

Contacts at the Altoona Water Authority for Questions, Assistance, or Appointments

If you have questions, concerning the removal of the downspouts please call either person listed below:

Ron Smith, Supervisor Wastewater Maintenance - 949-2217

George Boliski, Environmental Services Manager - 949-2246 or 949-2250
Fax 949-0979

Executive Offices - 949-2222
Fax 949-2254