Downspout Disconnection

Getting rainwater off the roof, out of the sanitary and into your rain garden or cistern

Bob Spencer
Seattle Public Utilities
Installing Rain Gardens & Cisterns

Trainings for contractors, 11/3/2011

www.seattle.gov/util/rainwise
FIRST THINGS FIRST

• What is the downspout connected to now?

• Does the water have a good place to go?

• How are you getting it there?
Assemble your tools

- Hacksaw, pliers, screwdriver, tape measure
- Sheet metal screws, expansion plug or cap, downspout elbow and extension
- Bandaids
Cut it and cap it

Step 1

Cut off downspout about 9 inches above where it enters the sewer connection.

Bracket

Sewer standpipe
Plug the old standpipe

- Do NOT use concrete!
Attach new elbow and pipe

Step 3

BASEMENT
Downspout extension must be at least 10 feet long

NO BASEMENT
Downspout extension must be at least 5 feet long

Insert the downspout INTO the elbow.
Discharge Distances

- More is better!
- From the home
  - 5 feet if home has a crawlspace
  - 10 feet if home has a basement, plus 2 more feet for each foot that basement extends below 5 feet
- From the neighbors
  - 5 feet from the property line
  - 10 feet from their home

Must have positive slope away from building!
Getting there

- Pipe PVC schedule 40
- A lined conveyance trench

Step 4

Capped standpipe

sheet metal screws

Splash block

5 feet or 10 feet minimum
Delivery to cistern