

July 12, 2011

Property Owner/Manager

Re: City of Toronto's Mandatory Downspout Disconnection bylaw

During heavy rainfall, the sewers become overloaded, increasing the risk of basement flooding and releasing polluted rainwater into our local waterways. To help solve the problem, the City will soon require all properties to disconnect their downspouts from the sewer system.

The bylaw will take effect on **November 20, 2011** for properties in the core of the City where stormwater and sanitary drainage are combined into a single pipe. All properties located within the affected area will receive this notice and are required to disconnect their downspouts by November 20th of this year. **A detailed map can be found at www.toronto.ca/water.** The bylaw will be phased in across the remaining parts of the City over the next five years.

You are connected to the system if you have:

- a) Downspouts that are visible from the outside of the building and connected to the sewer; or
- b) Downspouts that are connected to the sewer through an internal system.

Buildings with *external* downspouts, regardless of the type of roofing system (Peak or Flat), will be required to disconnect.

Exemptions are permitted under the bylaw. In cases where it's not technically feasible to disconnect your downspout or where disconnection would create a hazardous condition, property owners can apply to the City for an exemption.

Please note that exemptions *will* be granted to *internal* storm water system connections. If your building uses an internal storm water system (typical to flat roofs), you are still required to submit an application for exemption.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your unique situation, please contact Toronto Water at 416 392-1807 or visit our website for information about the Mandatory Downspout Disconnection Program www.toronto.ca/water or call 311

Thank you,

Downspout Disconnection Team