

Home Quest #2

Redirect Your Rainwater

Any rain and irrigation water that runs off carries soil, debris, fertilizer, and pesticides into storm drains that empty *directly* into our lakes. These substances can harm living organisms, habitats, and water quality. Reducing runoff from your property minimizes these problems.

For this challenge, you and your team will need to redirect one of your downspouts or gutters to drain onto your lawn, plant beds, or rain garden where water will soak into the soil rather than running off. However, be sure to direct this water away from your home to avoid wet basement and foundation problems. This should cost you less than \$15 in materials.

Your downspout should be directed at least 4 feet away from your house's foundation. It should drain on to a plant bed, mulched area, lawn, or area with drainage stones/rocks. It should not drain into a sewer pipe or onto a paved surface.

The following resources can help you if you don't know where to start:

http://www.smgov.net/uploadedFiles/Departments/OSE/Categories/Urban_Runoff/Downspout_Redirect_HowTo.pdf

<http://reducerunoff.org/downspout.htm>