

# Downspout Redirect Guidelines and Application

## Did you know?

The City of San Diego now offers rebates up to \$40 per downspout redirected!

## Introduction

A Downspout is a pipe that carries rainwater from the roof to a storm drain or the ground. Unfortunately, many homes have downspouts that convey rooftop runoff directly or indirectly to the storm drain system which leads to our oceans and waterways.

A Downspout Redirect, conveys the water to a landscaped area or bioswale rather than entering the storm drain. Landscapes can then naturally filter the water, helping to decrease the amount of pollutants, such as trash, dirt, oil, and metals that get transported downstream to our waterways. Downspout Redirects can also help conserve water when used to irrigate your landscape; and are a great DIY home improvement project.

## Application

1. **Take pre-installation photo:** Before installing your downspout, take 1 clear photograph of each downspout which will be fitted with a redirect. Photo must include area where current runoff occurs.
2. **Install the downspout redirect:** Purchase and install a redirect that meets the specifications set forth in the "Program Requirements & Parameters" section of these guidelines.
3. **Take post-installation photo:** After installing the redirect, take at least 2 clear photographs of the redirect which include the runoff area.
4. **Submit** the [Rain Barrel and Downspout Redirect Application](#) and upload your supporting documentation.
  - ✓ All "before" and "after" installation photos (see Steps 1 and 3)
  - ✓ Paid invoices or sales receipts (must show price of each redirect, store name, purchase date, and payment method)
  - ✓ Redirects purchased before November 1, 2018 will not be rebated.
5. A [W-9](#) form must be submitted to the City to receive your rebate funds.

Please mail to:

City of San Diego Public Utilities Department  
Attn: Rain Harvesting Rebate Program  
525 B Street, Suite 300  
San Diego, CA 92101

Please be advised, emailing your W-9 form as an attachment is not a secured method.

## Guidelines

1. Downspout runoff should be directed to landscaping at least 5 feet from the structure, 5 feet from property lines.
2. Runoff should be directed to a pervious landscape away from storm drains.

3. Runoff may not be directed to neighboring properties.
4. Ensure that the redirected water does not infiltrate near underground utilities.
5. Redirected water must drain away from the structure at a slight slope (between 1 and 6 percent).
6. It is recommended that areas receiving rooftop runoff be landscaped with vegetation to reduce runoff and potential erosion. Vegetation can include grasses and small shrubs.
7. Native plants are recommended because they are adapted to our wet winters and dry summers.
8. If using pipe extensions, extensions should not be directed to, or cross over, impervious surfaces; such as sidewalks or driveways.
9. Landscaped areas currently prone to ponding or pooling of water are not good candidates for downspout redirections.
10. Refer to the [Rainwater Harvesting Guide and Specifications Handbook](#) for installation guidance.

If you have questions after reading these guidelines, please call 619-533-4126 or e-mail [waterconservationrebates@sandiego.gov](mailto:waterconservationrebates@sandiego.gov). Also visit [wastenowater.org](http://wastenowater.org) for additional rebates.

Please visit Metropolitan Water District at [bewaterwise.com](http://bewaterwise.com) to determine if you are eligible for additional rebates.

Funding for rebates are available through the City of San Diego Public Utilities Department and Transportation and Storm Water Department, and will be distributed on a first come, first served basis until exhausted. This program is subject to change without prior notification.