




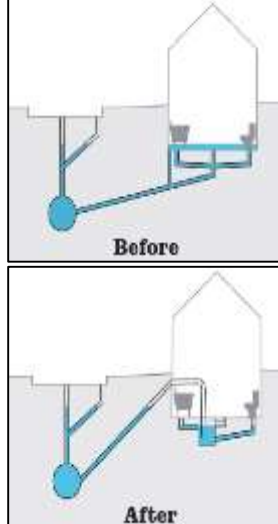


HOMEOWNER ACTION THAT COULD REDUCE FLOODING	CONSIDER TAKING THIS ACTION IF YOU ANSWER YES TO ANY OF THESE QUESTIONS	
	<p>Collect Rainwater Rain barrels collect and store rainfall for later use. Downspouts from the roof of a house, garage or shed carry water into the rain barrel, and a spigot or hose connection at the bottom of the rain barrel allows the homeowner to use the water for irrigating gardens or lawns or washing cars. There are many programs through which you can get rain barrels at a great discount, including the MWRD. Palos Hills and Hickory Hills are currently enrolled in the MWRD's free rain barrel program.</p>	<p>Do you have space on your property to connect a rain barrel or a cistern to your downspouts?</p>
	<p>Like rain barrels, rain cisterns also collect water for future use. Cisterns are much larger than rain barrels, and can hold enough rainwater to have a meaningful reduction in flows to the downstream sewers, which can reduce flooding. Cisterns can be located adjacent to a house/building, placed under a deck, or even buried underground.</p>	<p>Would you use the collected rain to water your garden or lawn?</p>
	<p>Plant a Rain Garden Rain gardens are shallow basins that collect and absorb runoff from rooftops, sidewalks, and streets. They can be planted with a wide variety of water-tolerant plants and can be a beautiful addition to landscaping. They store rainwater during a storm, keeping the water from flowing downstream, and mimic the natural way that water absorbs into the ground.</p>	<p>Do you enjoy looking at flowers, greenery, and plants? Do you like to garden? Do you have room in your yard to plant a rain garden?</p>
	<p>Plant a Stormwater Tree Stormwater trees can help capture stormwater on their leaves and soak up stormwater that falls on the ground.</p>	<p>Do you have room on your property to plant a stormwater tree?</p>
	<p>Change Your Pavement When rainwater falls on traditional driveway and patio materials (like concrete and asphalt), the water has no opportunity to soak into the ground and it all runs off, potentially causing drainage problems. Permeable or porous pavements allow some of the rainwater that falls on those surfaces to soak into the ground, reducing the amount of water that runs off.</p>	<p>Are you updating, repairing or replacing a paved surface, like a patio or driveway? Are you building a new patio, sidewalk, deck or driveway?</p>
	<p>Disconnect or relocate downspouts</p>	<p>Do your downspouts</p>

	<p>Downspouts and sump pumps should not be connected to the sewer system, and they should point away from your house's foundation. Downspouts should drain water at least three feet away from your house, so add pipe to the downspout to make them longer, if necessary. Make sure the downspouts drain water to a portion of your yard that is not sloped back towards your house.</p>	<p>point toward your house?</p> <p>Does water exit your downspouts less than 3 feet from your house?</p>
	<p>Use native plants in landscaping Plants that are native to northeast Illinois are well suited to survive our typical seasons with little maintenance, including long periods of drought and periods of intense rainfall. These plants tend to have deep roots which encourage infiltration of stormwater when it rains. This reduces the amount of stormwater runoff that leaves a property during a storm.</p>	<p>Do you enjoy looking at flowers, greenery, and plants?</p> <p>Do you hope to attract butterflies and birds to your yard?</p> <p>Are you looking for lower-maintenance garden options?</p>
	<p>Install a retention basin or pond Retention basins or ponds provide a specific area for stormwater to accumulate and be stored, before slowly being released to the underlying soils and/or to the sewer system in the street. These can require large areas of land, but can help reduce flooding problems if constructed across several cooperating properties.</p>	<p>Do you enjoy looking at flowers, greenery, and plants?</p> <p>Do you have significant stormwater flooding on your property?</p> <p>Do you have space on your property to install a pond?</p>
	<p>Install overhead sewers With standard plumbing, sewage runs to a basement and then down a pipe to a city's sewer system. In times of heavy rains, the city's sewer line can hit capacity, causing sewage to back up into the home through a basement drain or toilet.</p> <p>With an overhead system in place, sewage leaves the home at the basement ceiling level, instead of the basement floor level. Plumbing at the basement floor level is pumped up to the ceiling and out to the street. Because the sewers are overhead, it is more difficult for the flooded sewers in the streets to backup into the home.</p>	<p>Does sewage backup into your basement through a drain, sink, or toilet during heavy storms?</p>