



CITY OF TUKWILA  
Public Works Department  
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## DEVELOPMENT BULLETIN C2

### ROOF DOWNSPOUT CONTROLS

#### ***What are roof downspout controls?***

Roof downspout controls direct rainwater leaving the downspouts from a building, preventing flooding or other damage. Examples of downspout controls include splash blocks, dry wells, infiltration trenches, or piping directly to a City-owned storm drainage system.

#### ***When is a PW review required for roof downspout control?***

A storm drainage review is required; 1) for new roofs which are 500 square feet or larger; 2) when roof downspouts will connect to the City's storm drainage system; or 3) when drainage impacts to neighboring properties are anticipated. The City's storm drainage system includes drainage ditches, drainage pipes, manholes, catch basins, and other methods to convey storm drainage.

#### ***If my building needs storm drainage for the roof downspouts, what control should I use?***

Per 1998 King County Surface Water Design Manual, adopted by Public Works in 1999, "Essentially, roof downspout infiltration is **required** unless determined to be not feasible or not applicable using the evaluation procedure in 5.1.1, p 5-5."

#### ***If my project does not need a review, what do I do about the downspouts from my roof?***

Your downspouts may go to a gravel trench, splashblocks, or other method to handle the rainwater, as long as the method you choose does not cause negative water impacts to neighboring properties.

#### ***Can I connect the roof drains to the sanitary sewer?***

No. The storm drainage and the sanitary sewer must be separate for water quality and public health reasons.

#### ***Can I combine the footing drains and the roof drains?***

No. The two systems must be separate.

*If you have questions, please contact a Public Works Development Engineer.*

#### References:

King County Surface Water Design Manual  
Uniform Building Code  
U.P.C. Appendix M: Subsoil Drains M 1.5

*This Bulletin should not be used as a substitute for codes and regulations. Your project will be reviewed for specific compliance to codes and regulations.*