

Dispersion: Downspout Disconnection BMP

Reduce Runoff from Landscape and Hardscape Areas

Overview

Spreads runoff over a landscape area specifically to reduce pollution and runoff. Facilities that manage concentrated flow are called disconnection. Concentrated flow means water, usually storm runoff, flowing in a confined feature such as a channel, ditch, swale, river, etc.

Siting

Dispersion relies on the soil's ability to absorb adequate volumes of runoff, which is related to the flow path or the distance runoff travels over a hard surface before entering the dispersion area. To function properly should be located as follows:

- Over soils with a minimum infiltration rate of 2 inches/hour
- In landscaped areas with restored or protected soils
- Seasonal groundwater is at least three feet from the surface
- 10 feet from a building with a basement

Cost

This is a very low cost practice to adopt and maintain. Most of the cost consists of existing landscaping costs.



Maintenance

- Mow and trim grasses to appropriate height for type and species
- Identify and correct sources of sediment and debris
- Inspect for and remove excess sediment that may affect vegetation growth.
- Replace vegetation as needed.
- Replace eroded areas where channels have formed by filling them with soil, lightly compacting them with tamping or boot compaction, and reestablish vegetation.

