

How To Install A Downspout Extension



- To divert water from a downspout into a garden, rain garden, swale or other garden area, attach a downspout extension.
- Use the following as a guide.

You'll need the following:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves | <input type="checkbox"/> Needle-nose pliers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Downspout extension | <input type="checkbox"/> Bracket or strapping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tape measure | <input type="checkbox"/> Pavers, stones or gravel (optional) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hacksaw | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elbow | |

Let's get started

1. **Decide on the length and angle of your extension.**
 - Keep it at a 2% slope to ensure water flows through it.
 - Rain water should be directed at least 5 feet from the foundation of the building.
2. **Mark approximately 12 inches from the ground to the downspout.**
 - This height should work for up to a 6 foot extension.
 - Mark the downspout higher for longer extensions.
3. **Using a hacksaw, cut the downspout at the mark.**



4. Attach the elbow over downspout.

- Use needle-nose pliers to crimp the ends of the cut downspout and slide it inside the elbow.
- Attach the elbow to the downspout with screws, or for added stability, consider securing the elbow to the building with a bracket or strapping.



5. Do the same steps as above to attach the extension to the newly installed elbow.

- If additional stability is needed for the extension, consider a support like a cinder block or large stone.



6. To prevent erosion, place pavers, large stones or gravel where the extension directs water into the garden.

MAKE IT COUNT!

- After installing your downspout extension, learn about the environmental benefits diverting water provides.
- Go to www.treemapla.org to plot your downspout extension on the map.