Actions for Flood Resilient Homes: Home Drainage Basics

The graphic below shows common home drainage issues and solutions. Basic measures such as repositioning downspouts, grading away from your foundation, and seasonal home maintenance routines can help keep your home dry during heavy rainfall events.

Clearing storm sewer drains helps them perform effectively. Drains frequently become clogged with stormwater debris or blocked by snow and ice. This can cause water to accumulate and overflow onto roads and lawns.

Turf to native conversion helps infiltrate stormwater and prevents flooding. The conversion can also be a money and water saver; native plants often require less water than turf lawns.

Gutter installation is the key to directing water from your roof away from your home’s foundation. Too much water falling too close to your home can cause soil erosion, foundation problems, and water in the basement. To be effective, gutters must be cleaned in spring and fall.

Installing shields can prevent flooding through low-level windows. To protect window wells, create a gravel reservoir that allows water to slowly dissipate into the ground and install a cover.

Rain gardens, soil amendments, rock trenches, and sub-surface systems can all assist with stormwater infiltration on your property. See Rain Garden Factsheet for details.

Proper downspout alignment helps to drain water away from the home. Make sure the downspout extension is at least 4–6 feet long and properly positioned to avoid water backup.

NOTE: When stockpiling snow during the winter, plan ahead for the spring melt. Make sure water can effectively drain away from your property rather than pooling.

Inset images courtesy of: http://www.ashireporter.org/HomeInspection/Articles/Keeping-Basements-Dry/1048

For more information on flood resilience, contact the Engineering Department at 952-826-0371.
http://www.ashireporter.org/HomeInspection/Articles/Keeping-Basements-Dry/1048