

## Do It Right

The best way to solve a drainage problem is to correct it at the source. For instance, if water is flowing off your driveway and into the planter next to your house, you'd be wise to install a new yard inlet or add some other drainage system element to catch the water before it creates the problem.

Unfortunately, it's not always possible to get to the problem's source. Or trouble may stem from an uncontrollable source, such as an underground spring on your property. In either case, don't despair: City staff may be able to offer advice, and there are many private engineers and contractors who can help you find answers.

Here are a few final tips for saving yourself from home drainage problems:

#### Protect your trees.

Remember that the lot where your house stands was likely forested at one time. Those trees intercepted rain water and used it, thus preventing most drainage problems. With the building of homes and streets, that natural system was eliminated, thus creating many of the problems we face today. Think twice before cutting down trees on your lot, and consider adding some.

## Careful placement of trees or large shrubs

can save lots of trouble. That's because the roots of these plantings can grow down into underground pipes and eventually destroy them. If the pipes need to be dug up and replaced, your trees or shrubs could be destroyed in the process.

### By sweeping your driveway

instead of hosing it off, you can keep dirt out of your system—and save water.

# Avoid using wood chip mulch around yard inlets or swales in landscaped areas.

Wood floats, so it's easily carried away by runoff.

### Always leave yourself an out,

an independent backup system, just in case the City's storm drain system should fail.

### Put cages or screens on all gutters

to prevent debris from entering downspouts. These are inexpensive and easy to obtain from hardware stores and home centers, but remember, you need to clean them.

### Put a removable connection between downspouts and roof drains.

When cleaning your roof, disconnect all downspouts from the roof drains. This will keep debris from being washed into and clogging your underground system.

