

Ask Jon Eakes

Downspouts

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Downspouts bring water down from the rain gutters but you must not let them just dump the water near the house, or you could have leakage problems in your basement. We showed two gadgets to help out. For downspouts that are fed directly into the foundation weeping tiles, the Easy-Clean system made by Millennium in Ottawa intercepts leaves and lets the water go on down to the tiles. This prevents expensive clogging. The Auto-Spout from Guttertech in Calgary is an automatic extension to the down spout which folds down when it gets full of water and then raises itself back up when the rain stops. (You do need to leave it down for the winter months while ice could bother it.) Both are Canadian products.

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