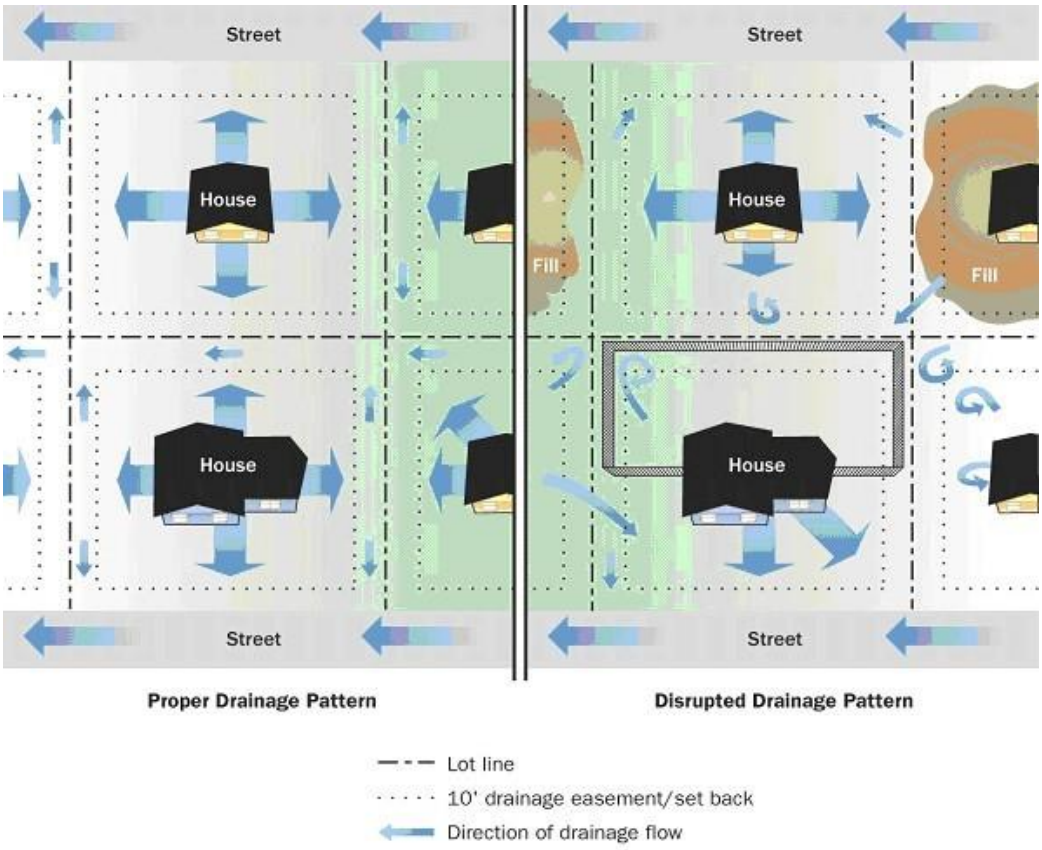
## Drainage Problems

When a city or subdivision is developed, there is usually a plan to collect and convey stormwater runoff away from buildings. Normally, the buildings are located on a site higher than the property line and street. Runoff drains downhill to the property line and then on to the street or storm drains **(see graphic below, left side)**. The drainage system then conveys the water to ditches, streams, and canals.




How to make your home less prone to stormwater flooding:

Many coastal communities throughout New Jersey rely on stormwater outfall pipes to remove excess water and divert into the back bays and/or ocean during rainstorms. To reduce the buildup of pressure into the outfall pipes during a storm event home and business owners can help reduce the total amount of storm water runoff that is produced.

**Stormwater runoff** usually refers to rainwater or precipitation that does not enter the groundwater system and instead flows across surfaces such as roads, driveways, and sidewalks. Stormwater runoff can pose problems for communities by increasing flood risk and can carry pollutants that will then enter and contaminate the water shed.

**Permeability** refers to the amount of liquid or gas that can pass through a solid barrier. **Impervious** materials such as concrete and asphalt actually contribute to increased storm water runoff by keeping rainwater from reentering the water table through the ground. Decreasing impervious barriers around you home can help with stormwater runoff and flooding. Avoid paving driveways and walkways around a home and opt for permeable solutions such as gravel, stepping stones, or cobble.

Excess debris or barriers around storm drains can actually cause street flooding that can impact a home or car. Even renters can do their part by ensuring that debris such as grass clippings, leaves, and trash do not accumulate in the street. During a rain storm debris can float down a street and get carried into storm drains clogging them and making them less effective, so make sure to keep areas away from the actual drain clear as well.

Allowing storm water to enter the ground and thus refill groundwater helps reduce subsidence and takes water away from homes and roads.

For more information on what can be done to your home check out these recommendations:

Impervious surfaces

Storm Water Management Best Practices