## Turf grasses need water to grow but too much water can weaken or kill the grass.

## Extra water is not always a good thing -

Water draining from gutters, downspouts, roofs, etc. needs to be dispersed throughout the lawn or into French drains so as not to cause any areas to become oversaturated. Areas of excessive moisture in a lawn lead to a profusion of weeds and different types of fungus. Areas of excessive long-term moisture can cause the turf grass to weaken and die.

## **Gutters and downspouts -**

The purpose of gutters and downspouts is to direct rainwater away from the structure and the foundation of the structure. Gutters in Florida are highly recommended to prevent water damage to your home. Unfortunately, this can cause the rainwater to concentrate in areas of the lawn that cannot percolate or run off effectively. This problem is compounded when the soil is already saturated from earlier rainfall.

## French drains -

The next logical step in effectively moving water away from your home and into storm drains or retention ponds is a French drain. A French drain system consists of pipes attached to the downspouts and drainage grates in the lawn. French drain systems do require inspection and occasionally maintenance for proper functioning. Professional installation of French drains is recommended due to the complex nature of the system and avoidance of existing underground utilities.



Images are courtesy of River City Gutters and Drainage (904) 330-8658

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