

SUMP PUMPS

BASIC INFORMATION AND CONNECTION REGULATIONS



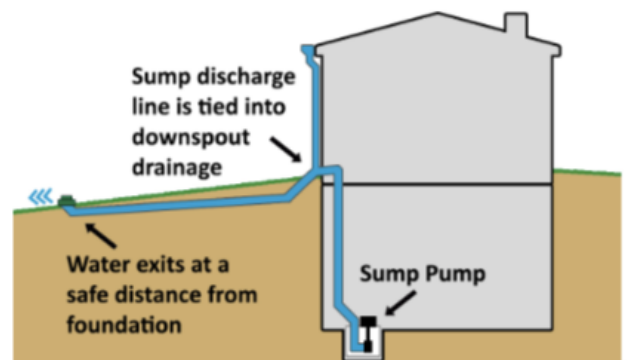
WHAT IS A SUMP PUMP?

Sump pump systems are designed to capture surface or ground water that enters basements or crawl spaces and pump it away from the house. A sump pump is usually installed in a sump pit which stores the water. When this water reaches a certain level, it triggers the sump pump to begin pumping the water. The systems are powered either by electricity or water pressure and may contain a backup component to safeguard against severe weather or geographic conditions.



WATER DISPOSAL/EXTERIOR DRAINAGE

If a sump pump's discharge is not properly addressed, then water could flow right back into your home. If your pump seems to be continuously running, it is likely being overworked from ineffective exterior drainage and slowly burning out the motor. Once a sump pump has pulled water away from the foundation, water, often combined with discharge captured from roof downspout systems, then needs to be diverted sufficiently far enough away and in a proper manner. **There are local ordinances in place that regulate sump pump drainage and maintenance!**



GENERAL REGULATIONS

1. Water must be discharged at least 20 feet from the building.
2. Water should not drain back into the house. Cycling water will place unnecessary strain on the pump and can weaken the structure's foundation.
3. Water should not drain onto a neighbor's property without their approval.
4. **Many jurisdictions do not permit pumped water into public sanitary sewer systems.**
5. Pumped water should never drain into a residence's septic system. Especially during heavy rain, a septic drainfield will become saturated and will struggle to handle the normal flow of water from the house.

SANITARY SEWERS SYSTEMS

A sanitary sewer is a pipe located in the street or easement that is designed solely to transport wastewater from sanitary fixtures inside your house or place of business. Sanitary fixtures include toilets, sinks, bathtubs, showers and lavatories.

STORMWATER SEWER SYSTEMS

A storm sewer is a pipe designed to carry rainwater away. Storm sewers are normally much larger than sanitary sewers because they are designed to carry much larger amounts of water.



**SUMP PUMP SYSTEMS SHOULD BE CONNECTED TO STORMWATER SEWERS,
NOT SANITARY SEWERS!**



STORMWATER VS. SANITARY CONNECTION

Sump pump water is what engineers call "clear water," most often rain water, ground water, or snow melt. **If only a few sump pumps are connected to sanitary sewers, they can cause the whole system to overload and backup** into basements, streets, and waterways as they are not designed to handle that much volume. Since sanitary sewer rates are based on the number of gallons that flow through a city, treating this excess clear water is costly to everyone. Alternatively, stormwater sewage systems are built to handle this excess water. **Proper connections to stormwater sewers reduce the possibility of flooding, overloading, and lessen the amount of water that has to be treated which reduces costs!**