

Function of Sump Pumps & Downspouts

Rainwater can enter the basement through many sources. The job of a sump pump is to divert the water from your basement to a location outside your 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 which pumps the water back outside, away from the house. A downspout's purpose is to direct water from the roof gutters away from the house.

The Problem with Inflow

Inflow is caused by improperly connected foundation (footing) drains, sump pumps, and downspouts. Instead of directing the clear rain water outside and away from the house, it directs the water into the sanitary sewer system.

Inflow is a problem because it creates an extra water burden for the sanitary sewer system, and when this system is overloaded, it can back up into our streets, buildings, and your basement. It also means that our cost to provide service to you is higher, as we are paying for the unnecessary pumping and treating of clear water!

The Town can help homeowners assess their homes for illegal connections. This service is free of charge. Call 401-782-0639 to schedule an inspection



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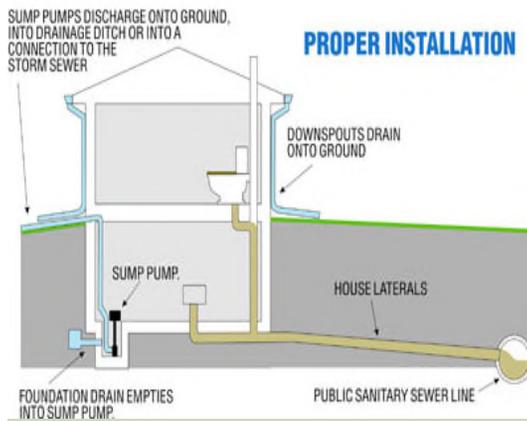
Disconnecting & Redirecting your Sump Pump & Downspouts



During wet weather, it only takes a few improperly connected sump pumps to cause a sanitary sewer overflow into basements, streets, and waterways.

How Do I Know if my Sump Pump is Improperly Connected?

Your sump pump is most likely improperly connected to the sanitary sewer if it is connected to a drain or sink in your basement.



How Do I Know if my Downspout is Improperly Connected?

If your downspouts disappear into the ground rather than discharging into your yard, they may be connected to the sanitary sewer. While connections to the storm sewer are permitted, connections to the sanitary sewer must be disconnected.



Downspouts could be connected to the sanitary sewer.

Disconnecting your Sump Pump

If your sump pump discharges to the sanitary system in any way, the discharge must be re-directed out of the sanitary sewer system. The change could be as simple as directing the discharge outside the house through a hose. If you aren't familiar with the work, contact a plumbing professional.

Each household or business that redirects their stormwater out of the sanitary sewer helps solve the problem of sewage backing up into your neighbors homes, streets, and waterways

Disconnecting your Downspout

Disconnecting your downspout from the sanitary sewer is easy to do yourself.

1. Cut the downspout, leaving enough space to insert the elbow.
2. Tightly cap the end of the pipe sticking out of the ground that leads to the sanitary sewer.
3. Attach an elbow to the end of the downspout and use an appropriate diverter to direct the water away from your home.



Where Should I Direct the Flow of my Disconnected Sump Pump and Downspout?

Water should be discharged away from your house or it may seep into your basement. It should flow downhill to an area where it can percolate into the ground or be stored for later use.

Direct flow to:



Rain Garden

Lawn

Trees

Rain Barrel

Never direct stormwater into a sanitary sewer, the street, or onto a neighboring property!