

Sump Pump and Basement Dry Information

» City of Norwalk, OH



**Making Norwalk Stronger
Through Public Works**

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Sump Pumps

If you have already lived through the dreaded experience of a flooded basement, then you know how much damage it can cause. Even one inch of water can take many hours to clean up and causes thousands of dollars in damaged furniture and carpets. Installing a [sump pump](#) in your basement is your best defense to prevent flooding.

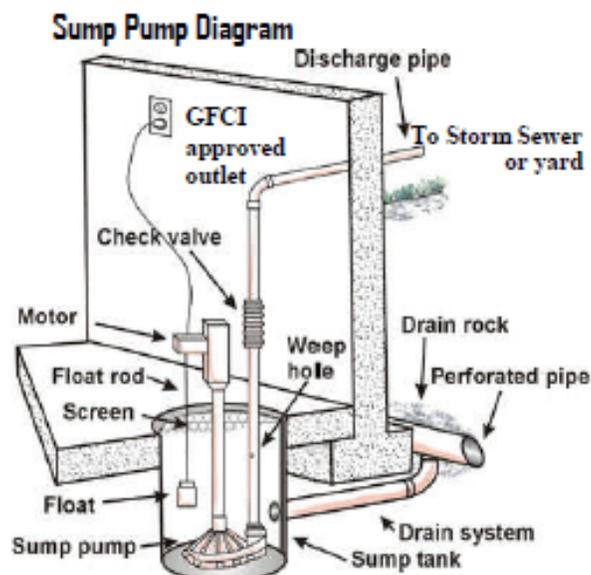
[Basement flooding](#) is most often caused by water build up in the soil that makes its way into your basement. There are many ways for water to enter and many ways to prevent it from entering. A sump pump on the other hand is a last defense against flooding because it pumps out water from the lowest section of the basement before the water level reaches the basement floor level. As groundwater level rises it is diverted into the sump hole. When the water reaches what is called 'the critical level', the sump pump begins to pump it out through a pipe that leads outside and away from your foundation.

Apart from the obvious damages to your belongings, flooding can also cause plumbing problems, a damaged foundation or [rotted wood](#); all of which are troubles that bring down the value of your home. A sump pump can save you thousands of dollars in the long run by maintaining the value of your home and by protecting your belongings from water damage.

The sump pump has recently become more important especially in newer homes since the Federal Clean Water Act no longer allows builders in many municipalities to drain rainwater collected by gutters into sewerage systems. Water collected on the roof of your home and drained by your gutters can cause flooding if it is not carried far enough away from your foundation.

As a reminder, sump pumps are NOT intended to pump sewage or soapy water.

Good sump pumps are made of stainless steel parts and very good sump pumps are made of cast-iron. Local precast concrete companies, plumbing supply stores and "chain" home improvement stores all offer high-end sump pumps. Expect to pay \$120+ for a good sump pump, depending on the size.



Check Valves

When installing or upgrading any basement drainage system in an area where flooding may occur, it is a good idea to seriously consider installing a check valve on your sewer line. A check valve allows sewage flow to go one direction only. This greatly reduces your chances for sewage backup when installed in your sewer line. This may be installed either in your yard or basement, depending on where your line is installed.

A good Check Valve will cost about \$125 for a 6-inch (typical residential) line. Be wary of cheap models from "chain" home improvement stores, that cannot be cleaned or serviced from the surface. This link <http://www.cleancheck.net/> shows an example of a very good Check Valve Unit.

Please contact the Street department if you have questions about a check valve you

Basement Drying Companies

Please notify the Street Department if you are considering hiring someone to do this. In the past, these contractors have not correctly tied into the proper sewer. Basement Drying Companies should be tying into appropriate storm sewers. Please have the Street department verify that your basement drying contractor is in fact tying into the proper sewer, otherwise you could cause backups to happen to yourself.

A note from your Public Works Director

Take the recommendations in this pamphlet and use them as added defenses against flooding. These suggestions will not prevent flooding; just decrease your odds of flooding. The alternatives offered are "best practice" measures that have been tried and true and are utilized in many low lying homes and homes with drainage issues.

Please let us know anytime you are seriously considering having a basement drying company or sump pump tied into City sewers. We need to verify that you are connecting to proper sewers, so as to prevent flooding of others downstream from you.

In order to reduce flooding occurrences, we must separate sewers and this can only be accomplished if you keep us informed of any sump or basement drying work that needs tied into public sewers.



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