

Tips on Flood Prevention for Homeowners

- Overhead sewers, ejector pumps, and in minor cases standpipes, can help reduce flood issues related to sanitary sewer backup.
- Clean gutters and install gutter covers to prevent clogging.
- Redefine and clear swales throughout yard to allow an appropriate drainage way for storm water runoff.
- Verify existing sump pump outlet is not draining into a sanitary sewer system. Connections to sanitary systems are illegal and often contribute to additional flooding problems.
- Verify existing sump pump and outlet pipe have sufficient capacity for discharging during intense storm events.
- Provide a relief outlet for the sump pump outside of the house that is a safe distance from the foundation in case of surcharge, frozen outlet pipe, or other blockage.
- Install a backup source of power for sump pump in case of electrical power failure.
- Extend downspouts away from the foundation approximately 5-10 feet.
- Repair foundation cracks throughout basement to prevent seepage.
- Raise the low-entry elevation of window wells and/or install drains in the window wells and connect them to the sump pump system.
- Install glass block windows in place of basement windows (except escape window) to prevent water inflow or infiltration.
- Install drain tile system to collect excess runoff, any remaining seepage or any infiltration resulting from hydrostatic pressure.

The recommendations provided above may not eliminate flooding or flood damage within the residence, however, if installed correctly they should effectively reduce the risk of flooding. It should also be noted that any of the recommendations may be implemented individually, however, many suggestions may be used in conjunction with one another to provide a greater impact in helping to reduce the risk of future flood damage.