

## Wet Basements

Many wet basement problems seen in Fargo are caused by poor drainage around a home. To dry out your basement, check to see if the following conditions exist around your home:

- Leaky gutters
- Leaky downspouts
- Earth near foundation disturbed by landscaping work
- Sidewalk or driveway causes water to dam up against foundation
- Blocked foundation drain tile
- Improper grading of the ground causes it to slope toward foundation
- No extension on downspouts

## Be a Good Neighbor

Please make sure that your sump pump discharge does not cross or flow onto the sidewalk. A hose on the sidewalk creates an obstacle for pedestrians and people riding bicycles that may lead to an injury.

Also, please do not discharge your sump pump toward your neighbor's property. You may be responsible for damage caused by this type of discharge. The City does allow you to pump to the street.

## Enforcement

The City of Fargo is committed to protecting the homes of its residents by enforcing sump pump regulations.

City ordinance 17-0211 gives City personnel and their designated representatives the authority to inspect all dwellings constructed after Sept. 12, 1971 to verify that the homes are in compliance with sump pump regulations. **Those who connect sump pumps to the sanitary sewer are subject to financial penalties.**

## To Learn More:

### City of Fargo Sump Pump Program

2301 8th Ave. N.  
Fargo, N.D. 58102

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# Sump Pump Success!



Your guide to  
sump pump use  
& regulations

**S**ump pumps play a key role in homes across our city. When heavy rains arrive, they can mean the difference between a dry basement and serious property damage. But for sump pumps to work their best, homeowners need to keep a few things in mind.

## Discharging your sump pump

Some simple steps can greatly reduce the amount of water that runs through your sump pump and prevent problems.

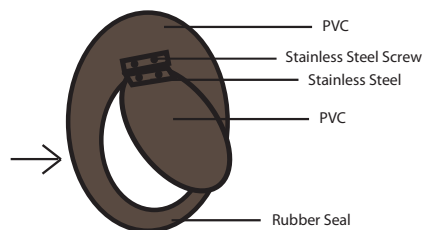
- Test your sump pump by adding water to the sump pump pit. If the water does not drain the sump pump is not working properly.
- Use downspouts to send rainwater away from your foundation.
- Slope your yard so rainwater does not flow toward your home.
- Consider installing a backup system to protect your property in case of power failure.
- Remove longer hoses from your sump pump when winter approaches. An 8 to 10 foot hose will work best.
- If your sump pump discharge line is trenched into your yard, disconnect the line when temperatures fall below freezing. If you are not sure if the line is trenched, contact us for assistance.

**City regulations require that your sump pump discharge into your yard or a storm sewer.** It is a violation of City law to connect your sump pump to the sanitary sewer system during the summer months. To discharge to the sanitary sewer in the winter, you must have a waiver from the City.

This regulation is designed to protect your property and other homes in your neighborhood. Illegal connections to the sanitary sewer system can overwhelm the City's lift station during heavy rainfall, causing sewer to backup into homes.

## Check Valves

New plumbing codes require that new homes have a check valve that stops the backup of sanitary fluid into the home. If your sump pump is discharging into the sanitary sewer system during heavy rains, you may flood your basement. When you move into a new home, make sure the sump pump is discharging into the storm sewer inlet or your yard.



## Waivers

**Seasonal waivers** allow you to discharge your sump pump into the sanitary system from October 1-March 31. You may desire this if you go out of town for the winter. The waiver costs \$36 dollars per year and is added to your water bill at a charge of \$3 per month.

**Non-seasonal waivers** are also available if a property owner can demonstrate that sump pump regulations pose an unreasonable hardship. These unique or extenuating circumstances may include physical limitations. To obtain a non-seasonal waiver property owners must submit a formal request in writing. Those who receive a waiver will be charged \$15 per month for connecting to the sanitary sewer.

**For more information** or to request a seasonal waiver form, contact us at 701-461-7867 or download one from our Web site [www.cityoffargo.com/wastewater](http://www.cityoffargo.com/wastewater).



Window wells are connected to the drain tile system.