

SUMP PUMPS

Bylaw 977 , Illegal Discharge of Sump Pumps of the Town of Carstairs

HOW A SUMP PUMP WORKS

The purpose of the sump pump is to protect a basement from flooding by removing rainwater that infiltrates into the soil around a basement foundation. Water travels through the ground and is collected in the foundation drain (weeping tile) and directed to the sump pump. Once water from the foundation drain reaches a certain level, a float switch is triggered, which activates your sump pump (You might hear it running during the Spring and after rainy weather). Water from the sump pump is then pumped out and discharged through a pipe in the wall to an outside location far enough from your foundation wall to prevent discharge water from re-entering your foundation drain. The water is then naturally absorbed into the ground.

ILLEGAL CONNECTIONS



Your home's foundation drain could be tied directly to the sanitary main outside of your house.

Foundation drains could be linked to a laundry tub and a floor drain, which are then connected to the sanitary sewer.

Alternatively, your home's foundation drain could connect to the sump pit - no pump, but the sump pit's base has a drain that connects to the sanitary main.

IMPACT

When infiltration occurs, clean rainwater is carried through the sanitary sewer system and treated unnecessarily at our wastewater treatment system.

Infiltration stresses our public infrastructure and costs taxpayers money each year by increasing wastewater treatment costs and the rate at which the wastewater system must expand.

SOLUTIONS

- Drain the sump pump at least 5 feet from your house
- Water can be utilize by putting the discharge hose on your lawn, trees and shrubs, or permeable surface - move as needed
- **Note** - water must **not** drain into neighboring properties, lanes, streets, onto sidewalks, boulevards, into ditches or into the property owner's floor drain

If you have questions or concerns please contact
Operational Services at 403-337-3446