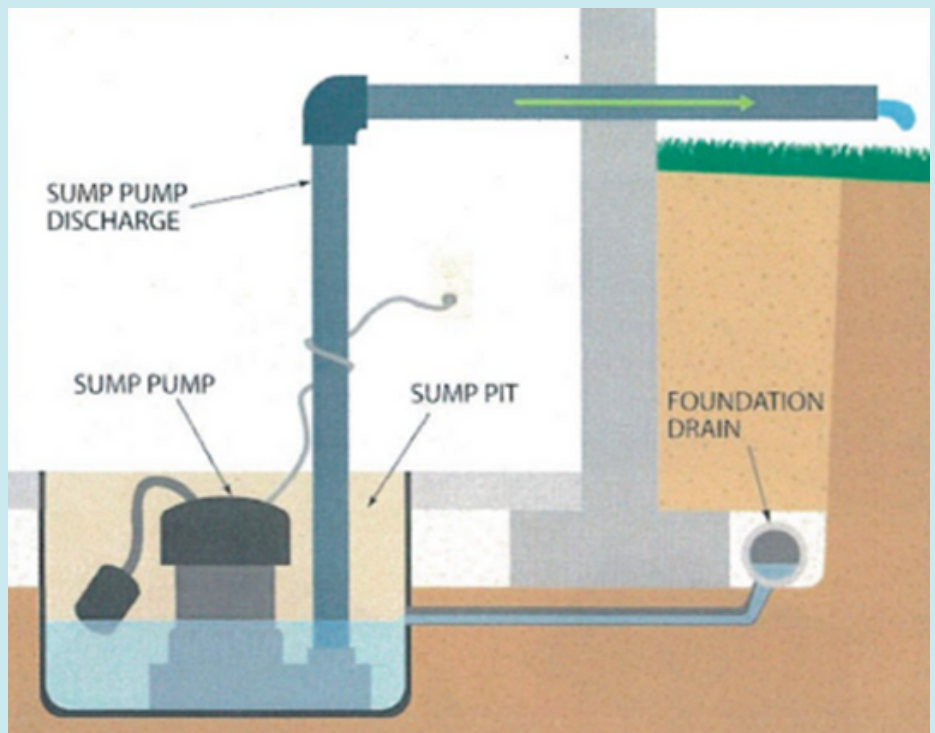


## Sump Pump Information

If you have a sump pump, you probably hear it running during the spring and after rainy weather. A sump pump is a pump that is used to protect a basement from flooding and general moisture intrusion by removing rainwater that infiltrates into the soil around the basement foundation.

### What does a sump pump do?

Water travels through the ground and is collected in the foundation drain (also referred to as weeping tiles) and directed to the sump pump. The sump pump appears as an opening in the basement floor. When water from the foundation drain reaches a certain level, a float switch is triggered, which activates your sump pump. Water from the sump pump is then usually pumped out and discharged through a pipe in the wall to an outside location far enough from your foundation wall to prevent the discharged water from re-entering your foundation drain. The water is then naturally absorbed into the ground.



### Not all Connections are Good

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. These connections are in violation of

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

**For more information call the Town of Carstairs Operations at 403-337-3446**

### Why is this important?

When infiltration occurs, clean rainwater is carried through the sanitary sewer system and treated unnecessarily at our wastewater treatment system. It is critical to ensure that sump pump connections do not drain into neighboring properties, lanes, or streets, onto sidewalks, boulevards, or ditches, or into the property owner's floor drain. In addition, the line must be kept 5 feet away from the property line. 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. If you are unsure or suspect that you have an illegal sump pump or foundation drain connection, please call the Town of Carstairs at the number listed above.

### So what CAN you do?

As a homeowner, you can drain the sump pump away from your home, onto a grassy area or permeable surface, where the water will be absorbed. Water from the sump pump can be used to water your lawn, trees, and shrubs. To avoid overwatering, it is recommended that the discharge hose be moved as needed, keeping it 5 feet away from the property line.