

Sewer Systems

(Typical Residential Sewer Connections)

Storm Sewer Backup

There are several reasons storm water would back up into the house. If the sump pump is overloaded, or there is a loss of power, the system designed to keep groundwater out of the basement can act as a conduit to bring water in.

Storm Water Sump Pumps are Basement pumps, which remove water that collects below a basement slab floor and pump it to an outlet in the yard. These pumps are normally electrically driven. Therefore, the pumps will not function during a power outage. If the power outage occurs during a rainstorm, water that collects in the footing drains of the residence cannot be pumped out.

Footing Drains

The footing drains collect water around the foundation to prevent excessive hydrostatic pressure on the floor and basement walls. A sump pump then pumps the water collected in the footing drains to the rear yard, often with a connection to a rear yard storm sewer.

Downspouts

Downspouts collect roof runoff and discharge the water in the rear yard. If rainwater or melted snow from the roof isn't carried far enough away from the house, it will collect against the foundation wall or footing and seep into the basement or crawl space. Therefore, it is recommended that the discharge of the downspout be located at least 20 feet away from the house.

One or more of the following methods can be used to help correct water backups in the basement:

- Install a larger sump pump.
- Add an additional pump.
- Connect the pump to a backup source of electricity, such as a battery system or generator.
- Disconnect the downspouts from the footing drain.
- Redirect downspouts and sump pump outfall farther away from the house, and/or
- Run the sump pump outfall above ground level or use a check valve to prevent back flow.

