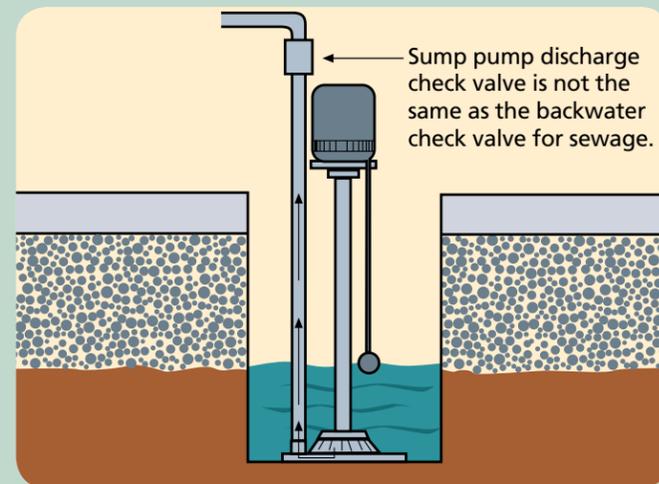


REDUCING THE CHANCE FOR FUTURE FLOODING - STEPS YOU CAN TAKE

Following are some general recommendations regarding steps you can take to reduce flooding. Every situation is different, so a licensed plumber or sewer contractor should be consulted to determine the best remedy for your property.

Install a Sump Pump

Sump pumps are designed to remove water from basements – water that collects from footer tiles and water that infiltrates into the basement through walls and floors. Homeowners who experience frequent flooding should consider installing a sump pump which will be most effective when used in conjunction with a backwater check valve or a standpipe.

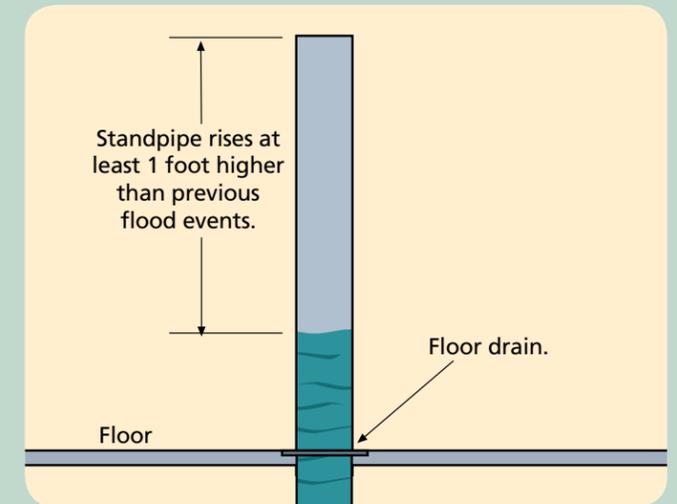


Install a Standpipe in a Basement Floor Drain

A standpipe is a pipe with a watertight connection to the floor drain that extends at least a foot higher than the deepest basement flooding that you have experienced. The installation of a standpipe will allow water to rise in the pipe – preventing it from flooding the basement.

A sump pump may still be needed to dispose of water from your foundation.

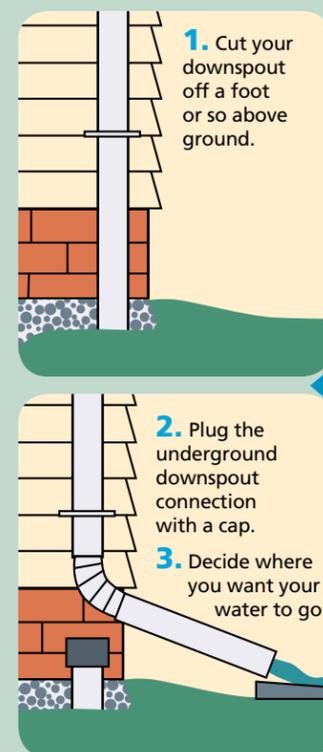
Caution: If you have a basement toilet, a standpipe higher than the stool will cause the toilet to overflow.



Disconnect Downspouts and Surface Drains from Sewers

During heavy rainfalls, sanitary and combined sewer systems can become overloaded with rainwater.

A major source of water comes from gutters, downspouts and drains that are connected to sanitary or combined sewers. This was a common practice years ago, but it is illegal today.



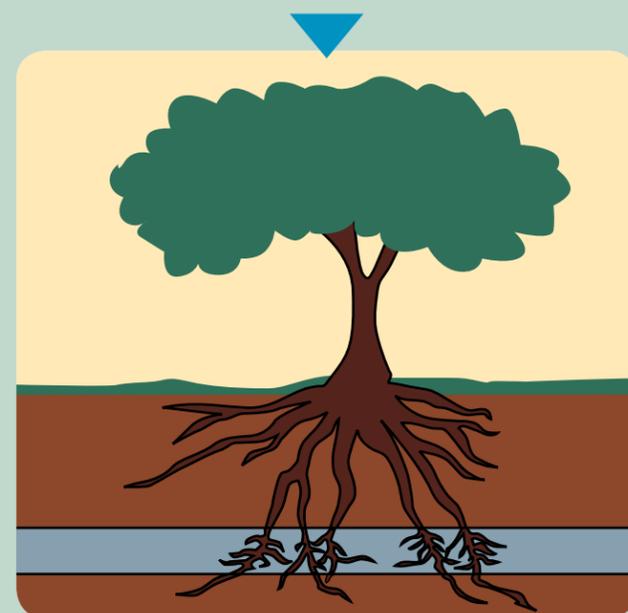
Accordingly, the City works with residents to address this problem. A grant is available for disconnecting downspouts and other sources of “clean water” from the sanitary sewer system.

A roof drainage system includes gutters on the bottom edges of roofs and downspouts that lead to landscaping that takes the water further away from the home. Ideally the landscaping includes a rain garden to hold the water and benefit the environment. To learn more visit raingardeninitiative.org or call 419-936-3015.

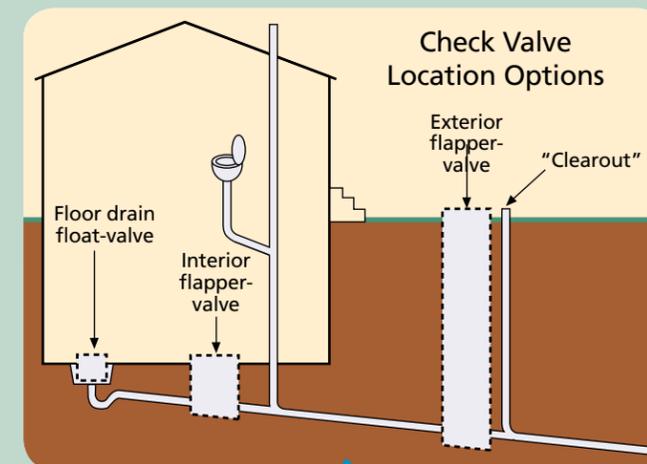
Have Your Sewer Line Cleaned

(Not grant eligible.)

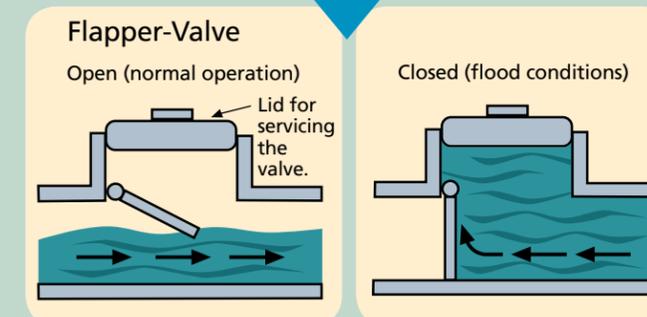
If you have experienced basement flooding and most of your neighbors have not – the cause may be a clogged or partially blocked sewer pipe. Having the pipe cleaned periodically by a licensed sewer cleaner may solve the problem. You should consider having this done regularly, particularly if you have large trees in your yard. If your sewer line needs to be cleaned often, check to see if your sewer cleaner offers video inspection to help determine the cause. Your sewer pipes may be broken and tree roots may be impeding flow.



Install a Backwater Check Valve



Install a backwater check valve in the floor drain or in the service pipe that connects your house to the city sewer. With a check valve, sewer water can only flow from the



house to the sewer. It is designed to prevent sewage from flowing back into the house during heavy rains. It may be necessary to install a sump pump in addition to the check valve to collect all the water from your basement footer tiles.

A check valve may be installed on the interior or exterior of your home. If installed inside the home, a plumber should perform the work. He/she should determine if your basement construction is sound and can withstand the pressure that may result from the pipe. If the check valve is installed outside the home, a licensed sewer contractor should perform the work. The floor drain type does not require a licensed contractor. All types are accessible for periodic maintenance.

These systems can significantly reduce the chance that sewage will back up into your basement. However, no solution is completely fool proof. Under extreme conditions, any system can fail to perform as expected.

