

## SUMP PUMP VIOLATIONS

During heavy rains the Water and Wastewater Utility experiences a large increase in sanitary sewer flows. Much of this is due to groundwater entering the sewers from sump pumps in private homes. Many people are unaware that it is illegal to discharge a sump pump, roof drain, or any other source of groundwater into the sanitary sewer system. Unnecessarily high flows result in higher costs to all users. With your cooperation, we can keep these costs down. Check your sump pump to make sure it is not pumping into the sanitary sewer. If your sump pump is running to a floor drain or is connected to the sewer in any way, it must be redirected to run out on to the ground. According to Union Grove Municipal code section 18-6, violators are subject to fines as high as \$500 per day.

### **Sec. 18-6. Discharge of clear water.**

- (a) Prohibited from sanitary sewer system. It is the intention of this section that no clear water from the municipal water system or rainwater enter the sanitary sewer system of the village. In addition to chapter 106, the provisions of this section shall apply.
- (b) Penalty for violation of section. Any person who shall violate the provisions of this section by reconnecting a clear water discharge to the sanitary sewer system or extending the discharge closer than 15 feet to any property line shall forfeit no less than \$500.00 for such violation in addition to costs of prosecution and other penalties imposed by law.
- (c) Compliance with section required for issuance of permit.
  - (1) If the public sewer system is available to the applicant for any permit required by this chapter, no permit shall be issued unless the building inspector is satisfied that the applicant will connect to the public sewer system. No building permit shall be issued for a structure or an improvement which is in violation of this section.
  - (2) No person shall make any provision for carrying into the public sewer system water from the street, gutters, lawns, areaways, downspouts, roofs of any building, overflow from cisterns, or water from any house or building foundation drain.
- (d) Building drain inverts; backwater valves. Building drain inverts which connect to the sanitary sewer that are located less than 18 inches above the centerline of the main sanitary sewer system in the street or sewer right-of-way, shall be provided with a backwater valve. The backwater valve shall be installed in the building drain, immediately inside the foundation wall. The backwater valve shall be of combination backwater valve and cleanout type. Specifications for such valve shall be furnished by the superintendent of public works.
- (e) Footing tiles.
  - (1) Footing tile drains shall be installed so as to drain into a clear water sump pit. Such clear water shall be conveyed to the front or rear yard by means of an electrically driven pump. No side yard discharge of water shall be allowed.
  - (2) The clear water pump shall be located a minimum of 20 feet from the nearest floor drain and from any sanitary sump pit. The discharge pipe or extension or drain system of each clear water sump pump shall be extended no closer than 15 feet from any property line. The clear water waste shall be conveyed above ground by gravity flow and by natural means to the point of disposal.

(3) The clear water sump pump may be connected underground to the storm sewer system, at the owner's expense, upon written approval of the superintendent of public works.

(f) Roof drains. All residential roof drains shall be discharged no closer than six feet from any lot line and above grade. Roof drains that are installed to discharge below grade, as of the effective date of the ordinance from which this section derives, shall be removed and shall be so reconstructed as to discharge above the ground level grade. Any property owner failing to comply with this subsection shall be given 30 days' notice in writing by the superintendent of public works. Failure to comply will result in the village health officer ordering the corrective installation. The expenses thereof shall be assessed as a special tax against the property. A property owner, at his expense, may show acceptable proof as specified by the director of public works and the storm sewer committee that his roof drains do not discharge into the sanitary sewer main, and thereby be exempt from this subsection.

(g) Enforcement of section. It shall be the duty of the plumbing inspector to enforce this section. The plumbing inspector shall inspect all homes and buildings for compliance with this section prior to the change of ownership. An occupancy permit shall be issued if compliance has been found or after correction has been made. The inspection shall be made when a final water meter reading is made.

If you have a question regarding your sump pump hook up please call us at 878-1818, we would be happy to guide you.