

Sanitary Backup

If the sanitary service (sanitary sewer running from the village maintained sanitary sewer to the house) is plugged, there can be back up for any of the following reasons: grease, waste, tree roots, breaks in the pipe and saturated ground.

Grease

Grease bonds to the sanitary pipe, which can restrict and ultimately cut off the sanitary service from the village owned sanitary main.

Solution: Do not pour grease or other illegal substances down the drain, as they will eventually clog the sanitary service line.

Waste

If the sanitary service pipe is too small, or is partially clogged, the waste leaving the house from toilets, bathtubs, laundry rooms and dishwashers will back up into the house. The backup can usually be seen in the basement bathroom or laundry room.

Solution: Install an overhead sewer

Tree roots

In old sanitary services, tree roots can begin to grow in the cracks of the pipe obstructing the flows from the old house and reducing the capacity of the sanitary service.

Solution: Replace old sanitary services, pour tree root killer down the toilet each year, or have sewer professionally rodded.

Breaks in the pip/Saturated Ground

When the ground around the sanitary service is saturated (after a heavy rain or in an area with ponding water), the rainwater can seep into the cracks in the pipe.

Solution: Replace the cracked sanitary services.

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**DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS**

**Flood
Protection
Program**

Home Owner's Guide to Residential Sewer Systems

**“WHERE DOES THE WATER
AND WASTE GO?”**

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 resident cannot be pumped out.

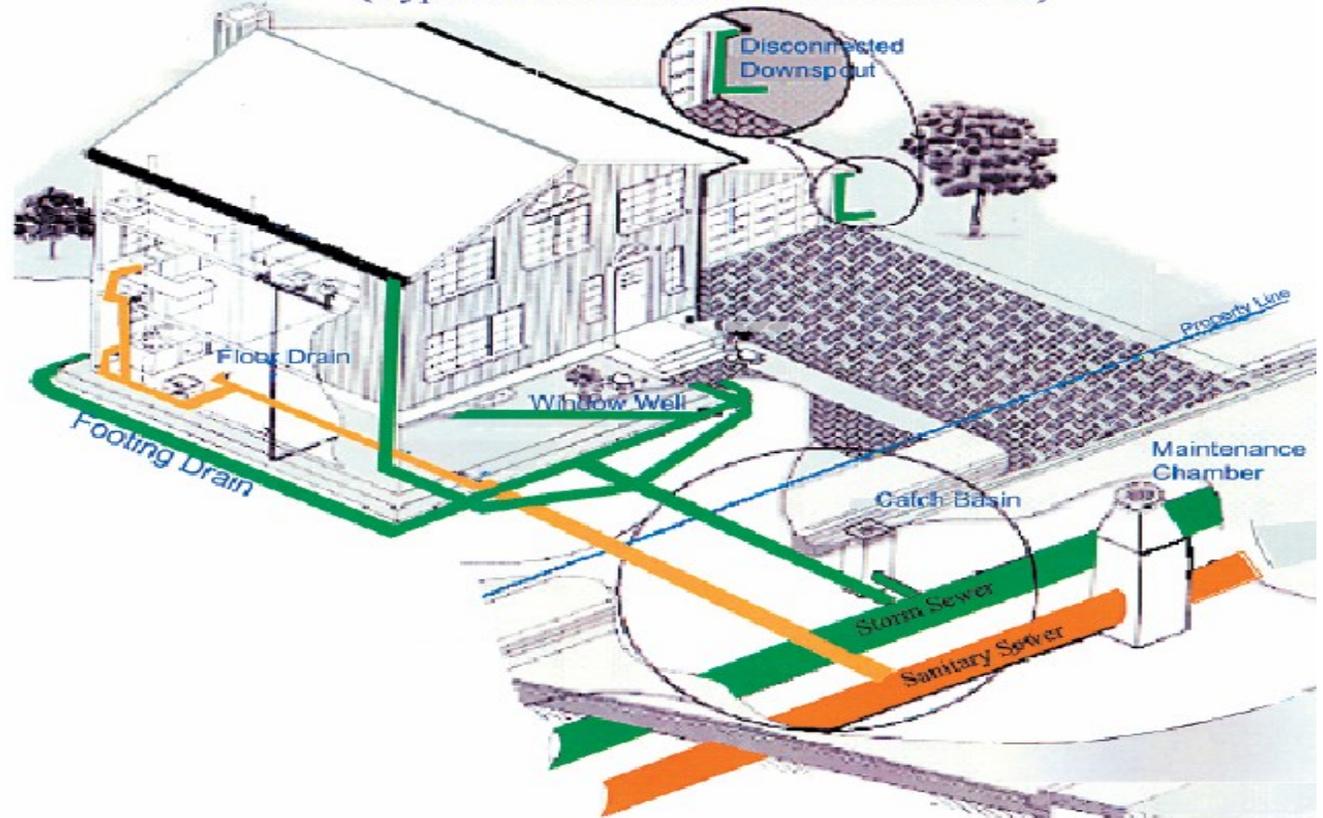
Footing Drains

The footing drains collect water around the foundation to prevent excessive hydraulic 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.

Sewer Systems (Typical Residential Sewer Connections)



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

