

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS & GUIDELINES REGARDING SUMP PUMP CONNECTIONS.

WHAT IS THE REASON FOR REGULATION?

Wastewater is the discharge from toilets, sinks, showers, bathtubs, dishwashers and washing machines. People produce wastewater. It must be treated. Wastewater is removed through the sanitary sewer system. Sanitary sewers carry it to a treatment facility.

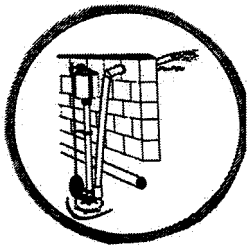
Groundwater or storm water is water from rain and snow, which seep into the soil. When soil becomes saturated, ground water seeps into basements. *Sump pumps commonly are used to remove this water.*

Sump pumps must **not** be connected to sanitary sewers, but rather must be connected to a storm sewer or discharged onto lawns.

WHY?

First, when sump pumps discharge into sanitary sewers, flooding often is the result. Sanitary sewers are not designed to handle the extra volume sump pumps add. This extra volume wrecks havoc with homes, businesses, roads, and the sanitary sewer system.

Second, wastewater needs to be treated. Groundwater from sump pumps does not. The cost of treatment is high. When the volume of wastewater is increased by the addition of groundwater from sump pumps, the Authority's and ultimately the home and business owners' treatment costs increase significantly and unnecessarily.



Third, keeping ground water in the Township is important. Discharging groundwater onto lawns or in to the storm sewers is an ecologically sound practice. It helps stabilize the water table.

Fourth, keeping the water in the Township helps the Authority contain the costs for residents and businesses alike.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY SUMP PUMP IS CONNECTED TO THE SANITARY SEWER?

Reroute the pipe so that it discharges onto your lawn or into a nearby storm sewer. If you have questions, or need assistance or advice about how to bring your sump pumps into compliance with the law, contact Michael Sullivan at the Municipal Authority, 215-249-1042.

IF I ASK FOR HELP, WILL I BE SUBJECT TO THE FINE?

No, so long as you take immediate steps to disconnect your sump pump from the sanitary sewer. Those who call and file a plan of action will be granted a fine-free grace period in which to comply.

HOW DOES THE AUTHORITY KNOW THAT SUMP PUMPS ARE DISCHARGED INTO THE SANITARY SEWER?

Remote cameras are routinely used as part of a preventive maintenance program. They record clear water flowing into the system from individual homes, businesses and leaking pipes in problem areas.

IS STORM WATER ENTERING SANITARY SEWERS A NEW PROBLEM?

No, but changing regulations by both the National and State Environmental Protection Agencies now prohibit wastewater treatment plants from handling storm water. These regulations significantly increase treatment costs.

ARE WE THE ONLY TOWNSHIP HAVING THIS PROBLEM?

No. Every township in the State is dealing with the same issues.

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