

## WHAT IS A SUMP PUMP AND A ROOF DRAIN?

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- Sump pumps discharge water from a small pit that goes through the building foundation from the basement out of the building and into a greenspace.
- Sump pumps are powered electrically, and backup generation may be necessary.
- It must be ensured that the sump pump has a properly sealed lid; moisture and other pollutants. Maintenance may be necessary to remove sediment and debris.
- 8 sump pumps operating at full capacity can fill an 8" sanitary sewer and an 8" sanitary sewer can service 200 homes
- 1 sump pump can add 7,000 gallons to the sanitary system in 24 hours
- A roof drain is a drain designed to accept rainwater on a roof and discharge it into a leader or downspout.
- 6 houses with roof drains tied in to the sanitary can fill an 8" sanitary sewer to capacity.



**You can help prevent stormwater flooding and sanitary sewer backup to your home and surrounding property with a few simple changes. Use this information as a guide to protect your home, and your neighbor's.**

### *Important Phone Numbers*

Sterling Wastewater Treatment

815-626-8378

Sterling Public Works Division

815-632-6657

Sterling Fire Department

815-632-6680

Sterling Police Department

815-632-6600

Or visit us on our website

[www.sterling-il.gov](http://www.sterling-il.gov)

**STERLING**  
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**City of Sterling, IL**

BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOR

SUMP PUMP AND ROOF  
DRAIN DISCONNECT  
GRANT PROGRAM



**STERLING CITY HALL**

**212 THIRD AVENUE**

**815-632-6621**

# SUMP PUMP AND ROOF DRAIN DISCONNECT GRANT PROGRAM

The City of Sterling has created a grant program to provide financial assistance to property owners to help pay for the disconnection of sump pumps and roof drains that drain into the sanitary sewer system. It is illegal to have a sump pump or roof drain connected to the sanitary sewers unless a variance has been granted as it contributes to sewer backups and overflows.

## Why can't we continue to have clear water go into the sanitary sewers?

- Additional capacity for the treatment of stormwater and groundwater is costly and gets passed on in the form of increased sewer rates.
- Expanding pipe capacity means pipe replacement, which is extremely expensive and requires streets and right of ways to be torn up.
- Inflow during major rainfalls exceeds current sewer capacity, causing system back-ups into homes and potential overflows into local creeks and rivers, putting public health at risk and violating state and federal regulations.
- Customers are being charged through sewer fees to treat and pump rain water that does not need to be treated.

## What are some benefits of this program?

- Safeguarding against sewer back-ups
- Slow the growth of sewer fee increases
- Preventing overflows to streets, basement, and the treatment plant.

During large storms, rain water threatens to overtop the wastewater lagoon. Once clear rainwater gets mixed in with wastewater, communities are charged for the treatment of all the water.

## How the Grants Work

- The City will reimburse the homeowner 50% with a max. of \$400 of assistance for the cost of disconnecting sump pumps draining into the sanitary sewer system.
- 50% reimbursement with a max. of \$400 of assistance to reroute the roof drains.
- Owner occupied homes that meet income guidelines are eligible for up to 75% reimbursement (see application for details).
- This work must be carried out by a licensed plumber and must attach a copy of estimate.
- Mandatory inspections to be provided by the City before and after disconnection.
- The homeowner must submit a reimbursement application to the City.

