

City of Melvindale
Water & Sewerage Department
3100 Oakwood Melvindale, MI 48122
313-429-1064

Eric W. Witte
Commissioner

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Mayor

Preventing and Minimizing Basement Flooding

Keep all items elevated. Valuable and irreplaceable items and photos should never be stored in a basement.

The first and most important thing is to make sure that every downspout and gutter is installed properly and is leak free. Downspouts should have extensions to carry the water a minimum of 3 feet from basement walls. Farther is better. The ground around basement walls including driveways should be sloped with positive drainage, to carry rainwater away from basement walls. No downspouts should be connected to any pipes going into the ground.

Interior drainage systems have a house trap under one of the cleanout caps in the basement floor of the residence. This house trap can get dirty, clogged, or partially obstructed. This should be cleaned and flushed regularly to assure that your storm drainage system is functioning properly. A partially obstructed house trap in a heavy rain will lead to basement flooding, even if the entire City sewer system is clear and running fine.

On a few occasions the City sewer system has become overwhelmed by extremely heavy rains, and even though all systems are operating properly, the system continued to fill and some basements experienced flooding as a result. The City is continually working on ways to prevent this, but no matter what we build or install, there is always the potential that an even larger storm could still lead to system flooding.

In an ongoing effort to reduce water entering into the City's drainage system, as well as offer immediate solutions to resident basement back up issues, the City is offering \$1,200.00 to residents that disconnect their storm water drainage system from the City's Sanitary Sewer system, and install a one way check valve in their own sanitary sewer system. This will provide immediate relief to residents that install these systems, as the check valve will prevent basement back-ups even if the City sewer becomes full. The separation of the storm drainage system from the Sanitary sewer system, by the installation of a sump and pump to an approved outside discharge point either in the City's storm sewer system or drywell, will reduce the total flow of water within the Sanitary sewer system thus helping the entire City.

You may call 313-429-1064 for further information.

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