

Storm Water Management

Rain Barrel Cost Share

Carmel residential property owners are eligible to receive \$50 cost share per rain barrel installed or \$75 cost share per barrel installed in a targeted watershed. Cost share not to exceed \$375.

Rain barrels are a great source of free soft water for watering plants, irrigation, and other outdoor household chores.

A rain barrel can save you 1,500 gallons of water a year!

When you use your free rain barrel water, not only do you save money, but you help protect our water by reducing storm water runoff that carries pollutants from leaving your yard to nearby ponds and streams.



To learn more about rain barrels and how to purchase them, please visit the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District's Rain Barrel Information Page

<https://www.hamiltonswcd.org/rainbarrels.html>

For information about stormwater management visit <http://carmel.in.gov/departments-services/engineering/storm-water-management>

Visit Rain on Main <https://www.rainonmain.com/> to learn about the City of Carmel's Annual Rain Barrel Auction.

It's your chance to bid on a custom Rain Barrel, painted by local artists!

For questions contact:

Teresa Lewis

Carmel Utilities

30 West Main Street

Carmel, Indiana 46032

317-571-2477 (office)

tlewis@carmel.in.gov

or

City of Carmel

Engineering Department at

317-571-2441



Your Guide to Sump Pump and Downspout Water Discharge

Part of a city wide program to prevent sanitary sewer overflows and sewer backups by eliminating stormwater and groundwater from entering the sanitary sewer system.

Sump Pump Inspection Program

The City of Carmel, Utility Department has initiated a Sump Pump inspection Program. The goal of the program is to reduce the amount of infiltration and inflow of clear water into the sanitary sewer system by removing sump pump and downspout discharges from the City's sanitary sewer system. Residents should ensure that their property is in compliance.

What is Inflow and Infiltration?

Inflow and infiltration are terms used to describe the ways clear water (groundwater and stormwater) enter the sanitary sewer system. Infiltration occurs when groundwater seeps into the sewer pipes through cracks, leaky joints, broken cleanout caps or deteriorated sewer laterals. Inflow occurs when water is directed from sump pumps or downspout drains into the sanitary sewer.

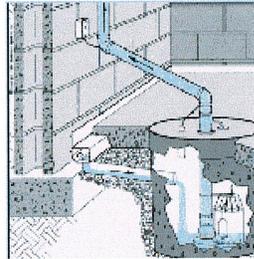
Why is clear water a problem?

Clear water entering the wastewater collection and treatment system create two main problems: First, it consumes system capacity. An 8-inch sanitary sewer can handle wastewater from approximately 200 homes. Only 18 sump pumps will consume the same capacity. If clear water is directed into the sanitary sewer and the capacity is ultimately overwhelmed, sewers can back-up into houses and overflow from manholes causing the release raw sewage into the environment. This creates health and safety issues that can be costly to resolve. Second, clear water that reaches the treatment plant is treated unnecessarily. This increases the cost of treatment and adds to the wear and tear on equipment, reducing its life span. The added cost of treating this clear water is then passed onto the customers.



What is the solution?

Sump pumps currently connected to the sanitary sewer system must be disconnected and rerouted to the storm water system. Water from sump pumps and gutters that discharges to the ground, must be located on your property, 25 feet away from any other property or easement line, whichever is more restrictive. The discharge must be onto a pervious surface, such as grass. If there is not 25 feet available, it must discharge as close to your home as possible. Splash blocks are acceptable in this situation to move water away from the structures foundation. Sump pumps may be directly connected to storm structures or to rear yard subsurface drains. The connection must be made by a licensed and permitted plumber and it must be inspected by the Engineering Department. For further questions or advice on acceptable discharge locations, contact the City of Carmel Engineering Department at 317-571-2441.



What is a sump pump?

A sump pump is a mechanical device located in a sump pit in your basement or crawl space areas. Its purpose is to pump accumulated clear water from building foundation drains and downspouts to the stormwater system.

Sump Pump Discharge

The sump removes water from the drain tile (a perforated pipe around the foundation designed to collect groundwater), which flows in to the sump pit.

Once the water in the sump pit reaches a certain level, the sump pump starts and pumps the groundwater through the discharge pipe. The sump pump discharge should spill on to a splash pad or through a flexible hose to a drainage way or storm sewer. This will minimize soil erosion at the foundation wall and re-circulation of the groundwater to into the drain tile.

What should I do?

- Disconnect sump pumps from sanitary plumbing drains that discharge to the City's sanitary sewer system.
- Maintain positive drainage away from your house foundation.
- Make sure discharges are not directed onto an adjacent property, sidewalk or street.
- Ensure that the lateral from your house to the mainline sewer is in good condition and not broken or cracked.
- Remember, the sanitary sewer system is designed to manage normal flows of wastewater, not rainwater or water from sump pumps or downspouts.

