

# Prevent Basement Flooding With These Few Simple Steps...

## Check your sump pump.

- ✓ Check for heavy build-up and corrosion around the inlet suction screen.
- ✓ Confirm that the pump does not sit directly in silt or gravel; place pump on bricks if necessary.
- ✓ Ensure that the pump is secured in position and not able to vibrate across the sump pit.

## Check the sump pit.

- ✓ The pit should be clear of any old items or floating debris. The bottom should be cleared out of any gravel or silt and leveled off to allow the pump to sit properly.

## Ensure the pit cover fits properly.

- ✓ A proper fit will keep objects out of the pit that can interfere with the float switch.
- ✓ If your pit is installed with a radon cover, ensure that it is fit and sealed properly. This may require the assistance of a plumbing contractor.

## Make sure the float switch swings freely.

- ✓ Check that the switch is not obstructed by any pipe, cords, pumps, or the side of the pit.
- ✓ Adjust the float to maximize the travel to prevent short cycling of the pump.

## Check the power source for your pump.

- ✓ The sump pump should have a dedicated circuit breaker and electrical outlet. Many older installations do not.
- ✓ Be sure that the pump circuit is not shared with a large appliance such as a refrigerator that can cause a circuit overload.
- ✓ Ensure that the pump cannot be accidentally unplugged.

## Check the sump pit volumes.

- ✓ If your pit experiences heavy water volumes, that is, if the pump cycles on and off every minute during a heavy rainy period, you should consider a high capacity pump. Pump capacity is the volume the pump can discharge with a lift of 10 feet, which is normally rated in gallons per hour (GPH). A high capacity pump should be able to deliver 2,000GPH minimum for adequate pumping.

## Inspect outdoor piping.

- ✓ Outdoor piping should be kept as short as possible. Excessive pipe and elbows add pressure drop to the system and will reduce pumping capacity.
- ✓ Ensure that the sump discharge is away from the foundation to prevent water recycling back into the basement.
- ✓ If the discharge is connected into a gutter downspout drain hub, confirm that there is an air gap to allow for water to escape in case of a clogged or frozen pipe line. Normally this air gap is at the point of connection of the discharge pipe and the drain hub.

## Inspect indoor piping.

- ✓ All joints should be checked for tightness and relieve any over stressing of pipe misalignment. Joints that are connected using rubber boots and hose clamps should be tightened and supported.
- ✓ Sump pumps must have a check valve installed to ensure that no water can reverse flow into the basement from gutter drainage. Confirm that the check valve is always in good working order.

## Install a water alarm.

- ✓ A simple water alarm will notify you that the sump water level has risen above its normal high level. Purchase a water alarm from Base Products for \$10.95 plus S&H (available only online).

## Install a backup sump pump.

- ✓ For maximum protection of your property, install a backup sump pump system from Base Products. Visit our website at [www.basepump.com](http://www.basepump.com) for a complete description of our products.

Base Products  
Corporation

PO Box 1601, Buffalo, NY 14231-1601  
Phone: 716-876-5206 Fax: 716-876-5211  
Toll Free: 800-554-1426  
[www.basepump.com](http://www.basepump.com)