

QUICK GUIDE: Sump Pump Compliance

The Town of St. Paul is under IDEM enforcement. If we cannot reduce the volume of water entering our sewers during rain events, we may be forced to build a new treatment plant—**potentially significantly increasing your monthly wastewater bill**. You must ensure your downspout gutters and sump pumps are not connected to the sanitary sewer.

The Solution: Every homeowner must ensure their sump pump for groundwater/stormwater in your basement or crawl space is **NOT** connected to the sanitary sewer lateral which should be used for toilets, sinks, and other sanitary discharge.

Step 1: Check Your Connection

Trace the discharge pipe from your sump pump.

- **ILLEGAL (The Problem):** The pipe goes into a floor drain, a laundry tub, or a pipe in the basement or crawl space that leads to the sanitary sewer.
- **LEGAL (The Solution):** The pipe exits through the basement or crawl space wall and discharges onto the ground or into a dedicated storm sewer.

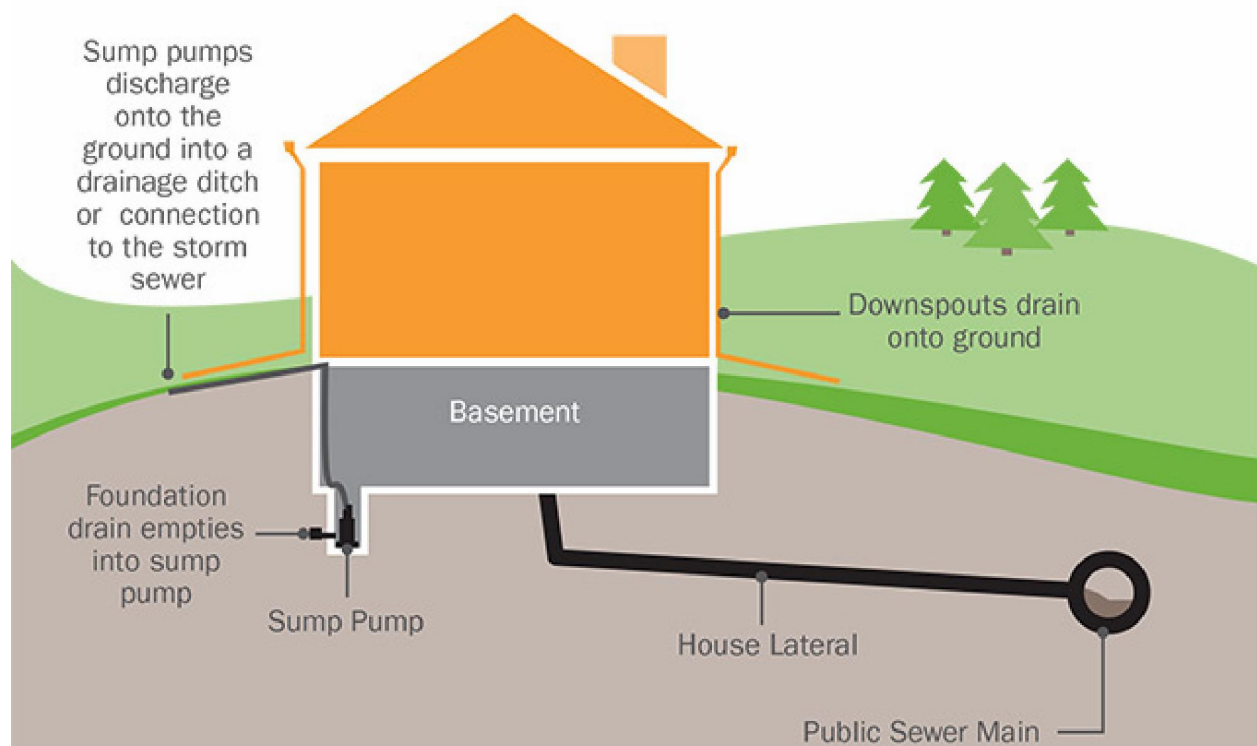
Step 2: Correct the Flow

If your pump is connected to the sanitary sewer, you must disconnect it immediately and choose an approved method:

Method	How it Works	Key Requirement
Lawn Discharge	Best for large yards.	Discharge at least 10 feet from your foundation to prevent basement seepage.
Curb/Gutter	Houses near streets.	Water must flow into the street gutter. Do not create a tripping hazard on sidewalks.
Storm Sewer	Houses near storm ditches/drains.	Connect directly to the Town's dedicated stormwater ditches, storm pipes or catch basins.

Step 3: Why This Matters to YOU

1. **Lower Rates:** Keeping "clean" groundwater out of the sewer keeps treatment costs down.
2. **No Backups:** When the sewer system is overwhelmed by sump pumps, raw sewage can back up into your basement.
3. **Property Value:** A **Sanitary Lateral Clearance Certificate** will soon be required to sell your home. Fixing this now prevents delays later.



Discharge water must never flow onto a neighbor's property in a way that causes damage or nuisance.