



## City of Florence *“Sump Pump Amnesty Program”*

### **Inspection Program**

The goal of this program is to reduce the amount of infiltration and inflow of water into the sanitary sewer system by removing sump pump discharges from the City’s sanitary sewer system.

### **What is Inflow and Infiltration?**

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

### **Why is water a problem?**

Water entering the waste water collection and treatment system creates two main problems:

- First, it consumes system capacity. An 8-inch sanitary sewer can handle sewage from up to 200 homes. If only 8 sump pumps discharge to this same sewer, it will overload the sewer. If water is directed into the sanitary sewer the capacity is ultimately overwhelmed, sewers can back-up into houses, and the system will eventually overflow from manholes causing flooding of raw sewage into the environment. This creates health, safety and water quality issues that can be costly to resolve.
- Secondly, clear water that reaches the treatment plant is treated unnecessarily. This increases the cost of treatment and adds to the wear and tear of the equipment, reducing its life span. The added cost of treating this clear water is then passed onto each customer. What is the solution? Inflow water from sump pumps and gutters needs to be directed to the ground surface where it can then make its way to drainage ditches, storm sewers, or other natural drainage features.

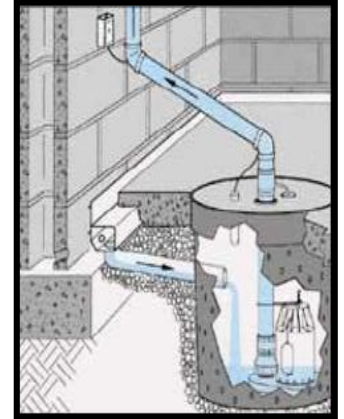
The Sump Pump Amnesty Inspection Program will identify those sump pumps that are improperly connected to the sanitary sewer and will provide direction on how to remedy this problem.

### **What is a sump pump?**

The sump pump is a mechanical device, which is located in the sump pit and is used to regulate the level of water within the sump. This device enables ground water to be discharged onto the surface or to the storm sewer system.

## Sump Pump Discharge

The sump removes water from the drain tile (a perforated pipe adjacent to the foundation walls designed to collect ground water), which flows 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 pipe is usually located at the side of the house. The sump pump discharge should spill onto a splash pad or through a flexible hose to a drainage way or storm sewer. It is important to provide a splash pad and/or a flexible hose for the discharge to minimize soil erosion at the foundation wall and re-circulation of the ground water back to the drain tile. The flexible hose and/or splash pad should be directed away from structures toward the adjacent drainage way or ditch.



### What should I do?

If you suspect that your sump pump may be tied into the sanitary sewer system please contact the City to schedule a full in home inspection of your sump pump system **free of charge**.

During the testing City employees will need to enter your home. You can expect to see them introducing dye into your sump pump system, taking notes and photographs of the homes internal plumbing and related appurtenances.

If your sump system is inspected and it is determined to be in violation, the city will require the problem be fixed under the terms outlined in Ordinance O-23-05. In an effort to alleviate the cost burden, the City of Florence will reimburse the first \$1,000 of the documented cost of repair. After the first \$ 1,000, the City will match one-half of the total cost of repair up to a maximum of \$ 2,000. For example:

Example	Total Repair Cost	City's Portion	Homeowners Portion
1	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 0
2	\$ 1,850	\$ 1,425	\$ 425
3	\$ 2,300	\$ 1,500	\$ 800

Most common repairs cost under \$1,000 however; in some instances repairs can cost several thousand dollars. The reimbursement offer is only valid during the sump pump amnesty program, if you are found to be illegally tied in after the program has ended, you will be required to pay the full cost of repair.

To schedule an appointment or request more information, please call Josh Hunt at (859) 647-5416.