

Does your home have a sump pump?

A sump pump is an appliance in your basement that pumps ground water out from around your basement. Often it is improperly connected to the sanitary sewer system when it should be directed to a garden, yard or storm sewer if available.

The Valparaiso Lakes Area Conservancy District has invested large sums of money in providing **separate** storm and sanitary sewers for our freeholders. Many cities and towns have a combined system where ground water/rain water is mixed with sanitary water and then sent to a plant for treatment. Treating ground water is generally not needed and becomes an expense the homeowner needlessly pays for in the monthly sewer bill.

By ordinance, freeholders **can** be charged a fine if their home pumps ground water into the sanitary sewers by the use of a sump pump.

Currently VLACD is checking sanitary manholes and lines to prevent any storm/ground water from entering the sanitary system and increasing costs to the homeowner. We are hoping to get more and more homeowners to check their sump pumps if they have one and redirect the sump pump out of the sanitary lines if so connected.

VLACD is more than willing to inspect a home's sump pump (free of charge) to see if it is improperly hooked into the sanitary sewers and provide ideas on how to correct this. If it is found at a later date to be improperly hooked up there can be a very hefty fine.

Before you disconnect make sure your sump pump is only draining clear floodwater from your basement. Sump pumps used to drain a washing machine or sink drain should **not** be discharged into your yard or the storm sewer.

Why do we want to correct this problem?

As stated before, treating ground water is usually needless and expensive. Secondly, the extra water flowing or pumped into the sanitary system uses up available capacity in both the mains and at the treatment plant. It is not uncommon during a large storm event that treatment plants bypass untreated water directly into streams and lakes or sanitary sewers back up into a home because it can not drain into a full sanitary sewer main.

If you are unsure or just want some advice please call Nicole at our front desk 464-3770 and she will arrange for one of our service men to visit your home.