

Protecting Your Home

from Sanitary Backups and Surface Water Flooding

Eaves Troughs and Downspouts

- Clean leaves and debris from inside the trough and downspout.
- Tighten elbows and other connections.
- Caulk and seal any leaks.
- Do not make illegal connections from downspouts to foundation drains or sanitary sewer. Ensure that downspouts discharge to the surface of the ground and are directed away from the foundation.

Splash Pads and Extensions

- Reconnect loose extensions.
- Replace badly dented extensions.
- Check soft plastic roll-out extensions for leaks and ensure they extend when filled.

Lot Grading

- Check for slope away from basement walls.
- Check for settling around the perimeter of foundation, along walkways, stairs and decks.
- Look for cracks in driveways, walkways and patios that are next to foundation wall. Caulk or waterproof where needed.
- The bottom of a window well should be at least one foot below the bottom of the window sill. Window wells should be filled with loose gravel or stone up to 3-6 inches from the bottom of the window sill.

Foundation Walls

- Check for moisture along the wall and floors.
- Fill and seal any visible cracks.

Sump Pump

- Check for power, checking the breaker or fuse.
- Test the sump pump by pouring water into the pump well.
- Check the outside pipe to confirm water is flowing away from the house, extend with pipe if necessary.
- Disconnect sump pump extension pipe in winter to avoid freezing the line.
- Do not direct sump pump discharge to sanitary sewer or floor drain.

Backwater Valve

- Consider installation of backwater valve if your house doesn't already have one.
- Open the top of the backwater valve and clean out any accumulated debris.
- Check flapper mechanism and make sure it is moving freely.



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