

DO YOU HAVE BASEMENT GROUNDWATER PROBLEMS?

DO YOU HAVE A SUMP PUMP FOR GROUNDWATER?

ARE YOU DISCHARGING GROUND WATER TO THE PUBLIC SEWER SYSTEM?

(NOT PERMITTED)



NOT PERMITTED TO BE CONNECTED TO
PUBLIC SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM

For your information:

- Basement footing drains and sump pumps that keep your basement or crawl space dry must **NOT** be connected to the public sewer system. The Local Ordinance and State Plumbing Code Section 1101.3 prohibits rain water and ground water from being discharged into the public sewer. **(1)**
- Over the past several months and including the heavy rains and flooding of August 2016, the ground water elevation has risen significantly.
- We continue to experience a 65% increase in “wastewater” volume and we have confirmed that a significant portion of the increase is due to clean water discharge from underdrain systems or sump pumps that are connected to the public sewer.
- Approximately 32% of your monthly sewer bill pays for treatment of wastewater at the City of Kalamazoo. We pay the same rate per gallon to the City regardless of dilution.
- We must work together to minimize the “new” water entering our system (from sump pumps) to minimize future rate increases.
- Connecting your footing drains or basement seepage water to the public sewer is not legal nor does it make sense, as your home pump system cannot pump enough water to lower the water table.
- If you have a sump pump for groundwater, please make sure it is not connected to the public sewer system. Call your plumber to disconnect and pump it outdoors where it belongs. The pump discharge point should be in your own yard, at least 20 ft from your home (at a point where it does not impact the neighbors either).
- For a more detailed illustration of the problems associated with sump pumps connected to public sewer systems, check out this great link from Golden Valley, MN:

<http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/homeyard/utilities/inflow-infiltration.php>

(1)Please note that some washing machines discharge into sump pumps that then discharge into the public sewer system. Wash machine sump pumps are permitted as long as NO groundwater enters the sump. Groundwater is not permitted.