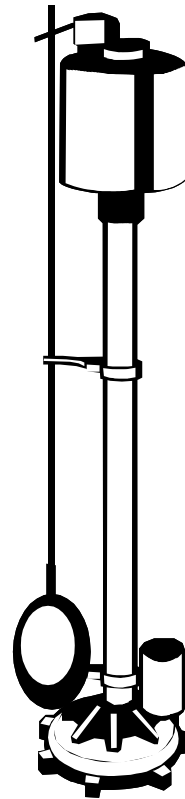
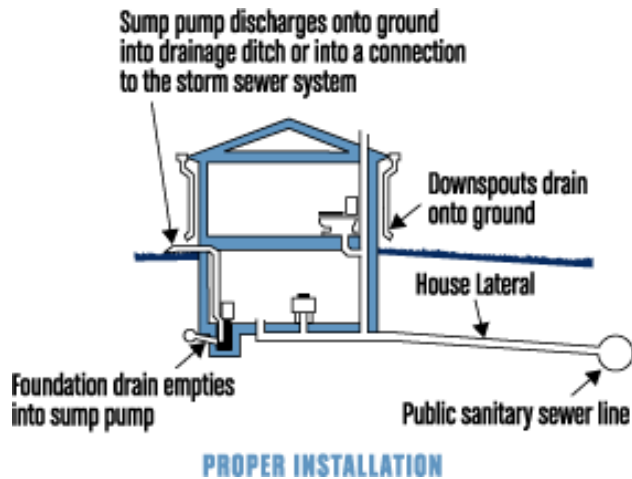
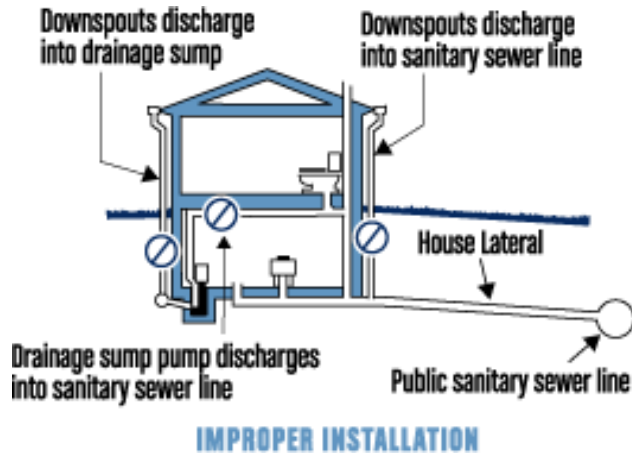


# The DO's & DON'T's Of SUMP PUMPS

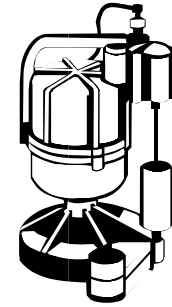
## Town of Niskayuna

Engineering Department  
 One Niskayuna Circle  
 Niskayuna, NY 12309  
 (518) 386-4520

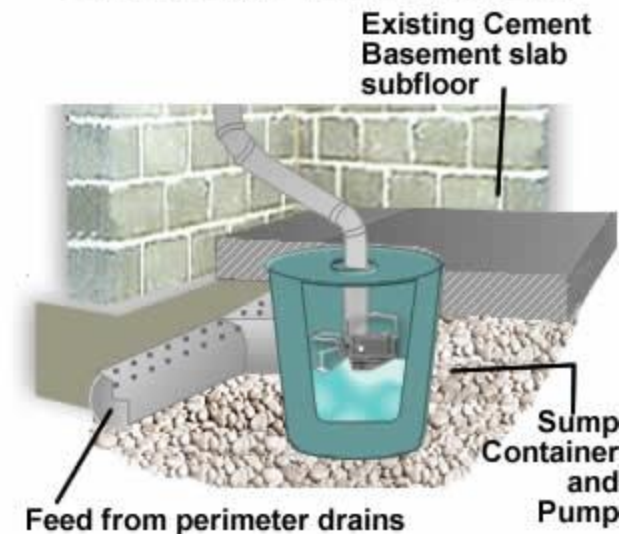
[www.niskayuna.org](http://www.niskayuna.org)



**Town Board**  
 Joe Landry, Supervisor  
 Lisa Weber  
 John Della Ratta  
 Denise Murphy McGraw  
 Bill McPartlon



## SUMP PUMP ILLUSTRATION



## Inflow and Infiltration (I&I)

- I&I refers to clear water getting into the sanitary sewer system
- Inflow occurs when clear water gets into the sanitary sewer system through basement sump pumps and foundation drains that are illegally connected to the system
- Infiltration occurs when ground water seeps into the sanitary sewer system through cracks or leaks in sewer pipes and sewer laterals
- Improperly connected sump pumps contribute to I&I
- People who have connected their pumps to the sanitary sewer system cause problems within the collection and treatment system and increase costs to everyone
- The cracks or leaks may be caused by age related deterioration, loose joints, or root damage

### **Sump pumps connected to sanitary sewer lines are undesirable because:**

- The sewer system was not designed to handle the increased volumes of water from storm water, surface water, and groundwater
- It is not necessary to treat this type of water which increases treatment costs for all sewer customers
- It would be very costly to upgrade and expand the sanitary sewer system to accommodate these extraneous flows
- They may pump in debris and silt that could clog your service lateral



- 👉 Discharge sump pumps, footing drains, “French-drains”, groundwater, spring water, subsurface drainage, building foundation drainage, and basement drainage outside of your home into a grassy area in your yard or into the Town’s storm sewer system (if it has sufficient capacity)
- 👉 Prevent water from draining directly into the street
- 👉 Consult a licensed plumber to correct any illegal connections to the sanitary sewer
- 👉 Clean the area around the sump pump to prevent debris such as dust and dirt from entering water
- 👉 Install a check valve and or a backwater valve when connecting your sump pump into the Town’s Stormwater system
- 👉 Contact the Town’s plumbing inspector at 377-8411 before making any changes to your sump pump
- 👉 Remedy any illegal connections ASAP
- 👉 Discharge gutters to a grassy area in your yard
- 👉 Install a permanent discharge line for your sump pump
- 👉 Help the Town remedy inflow by removing improper connections to the sanitary sewer system as soon as possible
- 👉 Dispose of cooking oil by pouring it into a heat-resistant container and disposing of it in the garbage after it has cooled



- 👎 Don’t Connect sump pumps, roof Gutters, foundation drains, roof gutter drains, or “French-drains” to the sanitary sewer system
- 👎 Don’t let discharged water run down your driveway, directly into the street, or onto neighboring property. Instead drain it to a grassy area in your yard
- 👎 Don’t drain water from the sump pump into the basement sanitary sewer drain or laundry tub



### **Don’t put that into your sump pump!**

- 👎 Don’t Put the following or similar items into your sump pump
  - 👎 Ashes, cat litter, or other debris
  - 👎 Detergents, or soapy water
  - 👎 Paint, chemicals, pesticides, poisons, or corrosives
  - 👎 Antifreeze, grease, oil, or gasoline
  - 👎 Cooking oil
  - 👎 Grease from cooking or cleaning a barbecue grill
  - 👎 Water from gutter down spouts
  - 👎 Water from rain leaders
  - 👎 Water from roof gutters
  - 👎 Roof water
  - 👎 Sand soil, silt, or mud
  - 👎 Swimming pool water
  - 👎 Water from showers, sinks, laundry tubs or washing machines
  - 👎 Surface water