
Sump Pump Discharge

July 2020

Noncompliant sump pump discharge lines are a growing concern for the City of Martensville. This notice summarizes some of the general requirements from the City's Sump Pit and Surface Discharge Bylaw. Please review this notice to ensure your sump pump discharge is compliant with the City of Martensville's bylaws.

General Requirements

- Sump pumps **MUST NOT** discharge into the sanitary sewer system unless given written permission by the Director of Infrastructure and Planning or if the system into the sanitary sewer was installed prior to the adoption of the Sump Pit and Surface Discharge Bylaw on February 1, 2008.
- Sump pump discharge lines must be directed into the **rear yard** only unless given written permission by the Director of Infrastructure and Planning to do otherwise. The City also asks that the discharge lines remain **3 meters** (9 feet) from the rear property line and **1 meter** (3 feet) from the side property lines.
- Measures must be taken by the homeowner to prevent ponding or other hazards such as icing, mud, or algae build up on both public and private property.

FAQ

Why does the City allow the use of sump pumps if they can cause these problems?

Sump pumps play an important part in the City's sanitary sewer system and storm water drainage system. They pump water from the weeping tile out onto your property. This water is suitable for watering grass, plants, trees, and shrubs. Allowing this clean water to flow into the sanitary system would unnecessarily increase treatment costs and decrease the capacity of the sanitary system.

Why can't I direct my sump pump line onto the street?

Pumping your sump pump across the sidewalk and onto the street creates a hazard for pedestrians. The discharge line can cause ice, mud, and algae build up on the sidewalk which becomes slippery. It is important that all residents play a part in keeping our public areas safe for everyone.

Why does my discharge line need to be 3 meters from my rear property line and 1 meter from my side property line?

Keeping the discharge line well inside your property lines helps reduce the likelihood of damaging neighboring properties. When discharge lines are placed on or past the property lines the water from them can undermine fence posts, sidewalks, pathways, and rear lanes resulting in large costs to repair.

I am following all the City's requirements, but my sump pump discharge is still causing a hazard what should I do?

Sometimes sump pumps can run frequently depending on the groundwater table. If its possible residents can try raising the float on their sump pump to help reduce the frequency it runs. They can also use the discharge line to water their grass by moving the discharge line around their rear yard or by filling up rain barrels with the water to use later during dry months. If residents are not able to find a solution to their sump pump discharge issues, they are encouraged to contact City Hall and work with the City staff to help find a solution.

Apparently, my sump pump discharge line has been noncompliant for years and I have never been told to fix the problem. Why should I now?

Many residents may have been noncompliant with discharging their sump pumps for years without the City's knowledge. The City's enforcement of this bylaw is only on a complaint basis which leaves many noncompliant discharge lines unnoticed. We ask that all residents help avoid potential neighbor disputes and a future visit from City staff by taking immediate action to rectify any noncompliance issues with their sump pump discharge lines.

Where Can I Get More Information?

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact:

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Thank you for your cooperation!
