

INFILTRATION AND INFLOW (I&I)

Infiltration and Inflow (I&I) can overload our sewer system causing overflows of raw sewage, reducing the level of treatment at our plant, and even causing an increase in operating costs.

UMJA has been working diligently to reduce I & I sources as well as educate our community and customers about best practices to care for our sewer system.

Infiltration: Groundwater entering the sewer system through defects in the piping system. Some examples of defects are broken sewer laterals, root intrusion into laterals, or leaky sewer lateral connections.

Inflow: Surface water entering the system through manholes, sump pumps, cleanouts, flooded sewer vents, rain gutters, storm drains, or downspouts.



CONTACT US

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Visit our website for information
on contacting us in the event of
a sewer emergency.

NOW AVAILABLE: E-billing and an online customer portal! Visit our website to learn more about both. Plus- make sure we have your up-to-date contact information to receive notifications as needed by phone, text and email.



UPPER MONTGOMERY JOINT AUTHORITY

SUMP PUMPS AND YOUR SEWER SYSTEM



Did you know:

Connecting sump pumps to the sanitary sewer system is not only illegal but can cause big problems including sewer overflow!



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

At UMJA, we rely on our community to help us care for our sewer system. Many times, issues can be avoided with a combination of awareness and effort.

Disconnect your downspouts and sump pumps from discharging into the sanitary sewer system.

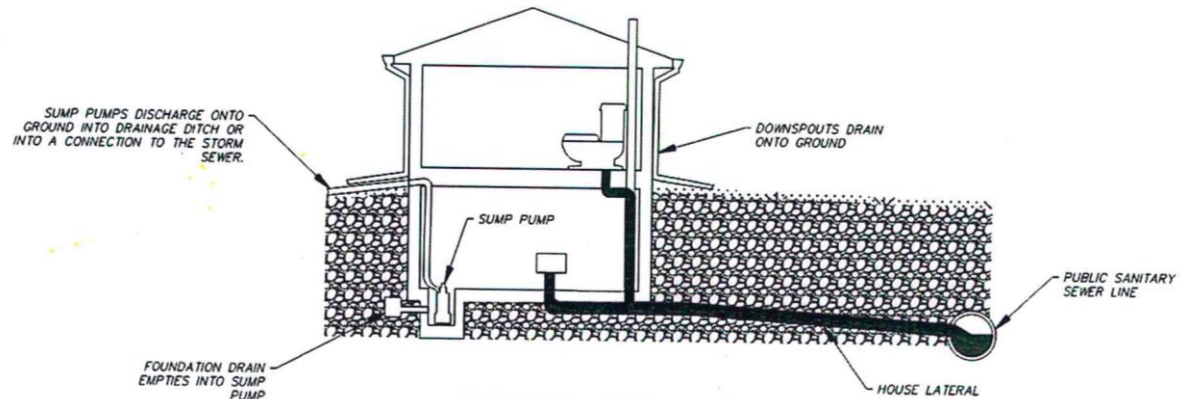
It is illegal to connect your sump pump into your sanitary lateral and can cause major issues.

Sewage pipes are designed to manage normal flows of wastewater, not the capacity of rainwater or water from sump pumps.

When downspouts and sump pumps are illegally connected to the sanitary sewer system, this excess amount of water entering the system causes it to overflow and overflow!

To continue to keep your community safe, it is critical that your sump pumps discharge to the yard or storm drain.

PROPER INSTALLATION OF SUMP PUMPS AND DOWNSPOUTS



Information sourced from the Pennsylvania Water Environmental Association

THE INFRASTRUCTURE

An 8-inch sewer pipe can handle wastewater from approximately 200 homes. Just 18 sump pumps will consume the same capacity!

The sanitary sewer pipe in the street is usually 8-inches in diameter, and often the pipe slope is not very steep. In fact, many 8-inch sewer pipes are installed with a slope of 0.4%. This means that for every 100 feet of pipe, the pipe goes downhill less than 5 inches!

Only so much sewage can flow through this pipe. For this size of sewer pipe, about 300 gallons of water can flow through it in a minute.

Information sourced from the Pennsylvania Water Environmental Association

THE RESULT: A MESS!

If the sewer system capacity is ultimately overwhelmed, sewers can back-up into houses and overflow from manholes, causing the release of raw sewage into the environment and homes. This creates health and safety issues that can be costly to resolve.

WHAT TO DO:

Inflow water from sump pumps and downspouts needs to be directed to lawns, ditches, storm drains, retention ponds and natural waterways.

Sump pumps currently connected to the sanitary sewer system must be disconnected and rerouted.

- Disconnect sump pumps from interior plumbing drains that discharge to the sanitary sewer system.
- Make sure the caps or plugs on your sewer trap are sealed tightly. If they look old or ill-fitting, replace them immediately.
- Maintain positive drainage that is aimed away from your home's foundation.
- Make sure discharges are not directed onto an adjacent property, sidewalk, or street.
- Ensure the lateral from your house to the mainline sewer is not broken or cracked.
- If your home has had sewer backups in the past, remember to plug low lying drains.

Want to know the integrity of your lateral and sump pump connection? Give us a call for an inspection!