



GUIDE TO MAINTAINING YOUR SUMP PUMP SYSTEM

Frequent monitoring and having a good maintenance program will help ensure that your sump pump system will work properly year-round, especially during a rain event. Having your sump pump system maintained and checked is very important for several reasons. Doing this will help prevent your basement from flooding. Next, it will help protect the structural integrity of your home.

Listed below are frequency schedules that we recommend to help maintain your sump pump system and what to look for.

Monthly Maintenance

- Be sure to inspect the power cord and outlet. Make sure the pump is plugged into an outlet and the outlet has power.
- Test the float switch. Manually pour water in the sump pit until the float rises (or reach down and manually lift the float switch), activating the pump. It should turn on and pump water out.
- Check for unusual noises or vibrations. Something like this can indicate worn parts or debris caught in the impeller of the pump.
- If you have 12-volt battery powered back-up pump, make sure the battery is charged and the trickle charger is working. Most have a green or red indicator light showing good or bad status. Test this pump just like the primary pump by lifting the float switch.
- Check the discharge line. Make sure the discharge line is not clogged or frozen so that water can flow freely through the line.
- Keep the lid of your sump pit loose or keep the tools to remove the lid nearby. In the event of problem during a storm, you don't want to be searching frantically for tools to access a malfunctioning pump.

Annual Maintenance

- Clean out the pump pit. Allowing debris and sludge to clog up the inlet to the pump is bad for the pump. A clogged inlet will reduce the performance of the pump.
- Check the check valve. Make sure water is not flowing back into the pit after each pump cycle.
- Battery backup check (if installed). Annually, test the battery, making sure you are holding the proper charge. Replace the backup battery every 2-3 years.

Professional Inspections

- If at any point you feel that your system is not working properly, or something just does not seem right, consider outsourcing comprehensive annual inspections and those more complex repairs and maintenance tasks. An experienced technician (usually a licensed plumber) can often identify problems that the general maintenance you are doing to your system. Lastly, experienced plumbers will have specialized tools to help enable them to complete tasks quickly and effectively.

