



Community Development  
Department

## WATER NUSIANCES AND SUMP PUMP REGULATIONS

### WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT STANDING WATER IN MY YARD?

Standing or accumulated water may occur for a variety of reasons. It may be caused by the settling of grades around your property or improper filling. Each instance, therefore, may call for an individual and specific solution. An inspection by the Public Works Department (736-3850) may help provide guidance on achieving a solution.

For many grading difficulties on private property, the Village has no authority or ability to assist in resolving the problem. However, some common solutions may include:

#### **Spread Black Dirt and Plant Grass**

By spreading black dirt and planting grass, you are revising the grade of the affected area. This may help in providing more effective drainage. The building code requires that surface drainage shall be diverted to a storm sewer conveyance or other *approved* point of collection that does not create a hazard. *Lots* shall be graded to drain surface water away from foundation walls. The *grade* shall fall not fewer than 6 inches within the first 10 feet. However, the dirt should not be spread so as to obstruct the required drainage swale along property lines or impede the flow of water on neighboring properties.

#### **Install Drain Tiles**

A perforated-type drain tile helps to direct the water toward the storm sewer system. The tiles, installed below grade, must be pitched so as to allow the water to run off in an appropriate manner without creating a nuisance for your neighbors. While a permit may not be required to install drain tiles, a consultation from a Village inspector is recommended. JULIE (1-800-892-0123) must be contacted prior to any digging. Drain tiles may not be installed within the public right-of-way or tied into the Village's storm sewer without approval from Public Works and a building permit being issued.

### WHO SHOULD I CALL WHEN I HAVE WATER IN MY YARD?

Depending on the cause of the water problem, one of two Departments in the Village can be called. These Departments, and their areas of expertise, are as follows:

#### **Public Works – 736-3850**

The Public Works Department is responsible for the care and maintenance of the Village's infrastructure. The Department is responsible for all Village street repairs and maintenance, operation of the water and sewer systems and preservation and beautification of Village-owned property. As a general rule, if the standing water is caused by improper grading or defective drain tiles, Public Works should be contacted.

## ☐ **Community Development – 736-3843**

The Community Development Department is responsible for all building, planning and zoning functions for the Village. The Department is responsible for ensuring that all construction on private property is performed to Village approved Code specifications. As a general rule, if the problem of standing water is caused by improper construction on a drainage swale, Community Development inspectors should be contacted.

### **WHAT ARE THE REGULATIONS REGARDING SUMP PUMPS?**

Water accumulation within a house can cause severe structural damage if not removed. Sump pumps provide convenient relief to avoid water build-up within a house. However, sump pump discharge must not cause exterior water accumulation problems for your neighbors.

**As a general rule, sump pump lines should be located so as not to discharge water within ten (10) feet of your property line.** However, depending on the width of your side yard, this may not be easily achieved. Sump pump lines can be piped to certain areas with plastic PVC or flexible corrugated pipe. Some flexible corrugated pipes have perforations to distribute the water evenly on the ground. Additional suggestions can be obtained by contacting an inspector with the Community Development Department.

### **DO I NEED A PERMIT TO INSTALL A SUMP PUMP?**

If you have an existing sump pump and it needs to be replaced, a permit is **not** required. You may replace the pump yourself or you may use a contractor licensed by the Village. **A permit is required if a new pump is being installed.** A new pump also requires a dedicated electrical circuit. Again, you may install the pump yourself or use a licensed contractor. Listings of licensed contractors are available at Village Hall.

### **HOW DO I OBTAIN A PERMIT?**

Permits are issued by the Community Development Department. A drawing, showing the exact locations for the new twenty-four inch (24”) pit, positioning of drain tiles and dedicated electrical circuit, should be submitted for review along with a permit application. In most cases, a permit can be issued within forty-eight (48) hours of application. A rough electrical inspection must be conducted as well as final plumbing and electrical inspections. Either the homeowner or contractor may call for the inspections. Please note, however, that twenty-four (24) hours notice is required for all inspections

### **HOW MUCH DOES A PERMIT COST?**

New sump pump permits required two separate fees - electrical and plumbing. The electrical fee is \$50.00 and the plumbing fee is \$50.00. Therefore, a sump pump permit costs \$100.00.