

FLOOD PROTECTION PROGRAM

2010



City of
Saskatoon



2010 FLOOD PROTECTION PROGRAM

The Flood Protection Program was established to assist eligible property owners with the installation of protective plumbing to decrease the risk of future flooding and the resulting damage.

Eligible property owners who had sewer backup or were at risk of a sewer backup as the result of a severe rainstorm, will be reimbursed for a portion of of the cost of installing protective plumbing and disconnecting foundation drains from the sanitary sewer. **The maximum reimbursement is \$3000 per property. Only a single payment for the original invoice will be made. No further reimbursement will be made after the original work is completed.**

The Flood Protection Program does not involve an application process. Properties eligible for the Flood Protection Program are selected at the sole discretion of the City of Saskatoon Infrastructure Services Department based on specific criteria. Only properties specifically selected for the Flood Protection Program are eligible for reimbursement.

Under this program, protective plumbing refers to sump pumping systems and backwater valves. Appropriate installation must be determined by a licensed plumbing contractor, and requires a single-use plumbing permit issued by the City of Saskatoon. Installation must also pass inspection by a City Plumbing Inspector.

ELIGIBILITY

Property owners may be eligible for reimbursement under the Flood Protection Program as determined by the City of Saskatoon if:

- The Infrastructure Services Department has determined that there is a possibility that overloaded primary sanitary sewer lines may have contributed to basement flooding in the vicinity of the property during a severe rainstorm;
- The procedures outlined below have been followed to the satisfaction of the Infrastructure Services Department; and
- All program objectives outlined below are met.

Eligibility for the Flood Protection Program is determined at the sole discretion of the City of Saskatoon Infrastructure Services Department.



PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

In order to qualify for the subsidy, eligible homeowners must meet all three objectives of the 2010 Flood Protection Program:

- 1. Protect all basement plumbing with backwater valves.**
- 2. Redirect weeping tile flows away from the floor drain and into a sump pit where the water may be pumped outside.**
- 3. Safely drain the water expelled by the sump pump away from your property and onto a suitable lane, ditch, street, or easement.**

These are the same three criteria that are required by every new home built in Saskatoon since January 1, 2004.

1. Protect all basement plumbing with backwater valves.

It is important that ALL below-grade (basement) fixtures in the home be protected by backwater valves. If even one below-grade drain or fixture is not protected the home effectively has no protection against a sewer backup. Backwater valves must be installed to protect all below-grade plumbing in the home including the floor drain. In most homes the floor drain does not have a backwater valve and this is therefore the most common entry point for water during a sanitary sewer backup.

2. Redirect weeping tile flows away from the floor drain and into a sump pit so the water may be pumped outside.

Installing a backwater valve on the floor drain requires that the weeping tile from the home be redirected away from the floor drain. In the event of a sanitary sewer backup the valve will close and prevent the weeping tile from draining out of the house. As a result the weeping tile water will flood the basement with rainwater.

Since January 1, 2004 all houses constructed in Saskatoon have been required to direct weeping tile flows into a sump pit where the water may then be pumped outside the home. To qualify for reimbursement under the 2010 Flood Protection Program, weeping tile systems must meet these new building code criteria. All flows from weeping tile must be directed outside the home using a properly designed sump pit and sump pump.

3. Safely drain the water from sump pits away from your property and onto a suitable lane, ditch, street, or easement.

In order to qualify for reimbursement under the Flood Protection Program homeowners must demonstrate that the water discharged by their sump pump does not create a nuisance or interfere with any adjacent properties. Once the water from your weeping tile system is pumped outside it has only made half the trip. The water still must travel across your property to a suitable drainage area such as a lane, easement, street or ditch.

If you plan to install your sump pump during the winter months you may need to plan ahead during warm weather when there is no snow. Decide where the sump pump line from inside your basement will exit your house. Talk to your licensed plumbing contractor if you have questions about planning where the sump pump water will exit your home. Once you have determined an appropriate exit point from your basement, prepare a suitable drainage path that will direct the water away from your home to the edge of your property and onto a designated drainage path such as a lane, easement, street or ditch. Water discharged by your sump pump and by your eavestrough should drain on a hard surface at least two meters (six feet) away from your house to prevent the water from soaking into the backfilled area near your basement. Be sure that the water discharged by your sump pump does not interfere with a park or other property.



REIMBURSEMENT WILL NOT BE GRANTED WHERE:

- Foundation drainage from the property is not directed into a sump pit which is equipped to pump the water outside the home;
- The property owner/licensed plumbing contractor does not get the required permits and approvals for the work being undertaken;
- Discharge from a sump pump is not draining away effectively and is creating a nuisance or hazard on City property or other private properties
- Installations do not pass inspection by a City Plumbing Inspector; or
- The required documentation is not submitted by the deadline of 12:00 noon on Friday, December 31, 2010. An "Application for a Deadline Extension" may be submitted if the program work cannot be completed by December 31. The "Application for a Deadline Extension" must also be accompanied by a quote from a licensed plumbing contractor, including an expected date for completion of the work.

ELIGIBLE COSTS (TO A MAXIMUM OF \$3000)

- Assessment costs (site visit by selected plumber)
- Labour costs
- Backwater valve (the City requires that CSA approved valves be installed)
- Couplings
- Pipe
- Concrete cutting and replacement
- Gravel
- Sump pit
- Sump pump
- Electrical wiring
- Pump discharge hose
- Exterior concrete spillway for sump pump discharge water
- Private drain capping device
- City of Saskatoon plumbing permit and inspection (This is a single-use permit, no other plumbing modifications are to be included.)
- GST and PST

PROCEDURE

Eligible property owners should follow this procedure:

1. Obtain detailed work estimates from one or more plumbing contractors licensed in the City of Saskatoon.

- A licensed plumbing contractor must assess the property and recommend the right installations to satisfactorily protect the home
- A list of licensed plumbers that have expressed interest in performing work under the 2010 Flood Protection Program and are familiar with the program requirements is included in this package
- Homeowners are responsible for choosing the best solution for their home
- It is the responsibility of the homeowner and contractor to resolve any issues regarding defective plumbing, incomplete work or warranty work.

2. Apply for a City of Saskatoon plumbing permit.

- The licensed plumbing contractor must apply to the City on behalf of the homeowner for a single-use permit to undertake the work. No other plumbing modifications are to be included on the permit
- On the permit application, note that the proposed work is being done for the Flood Protection Program

3. Carry out the work.

- All installation work must be completed and applications for reimbursement received by the Infrastructure Services Department **no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, December 31, 2010**. An "Application for a Deadline Extension" may be submitted if the program work cannot be completed by December 31, 2010.

4. Arrange for a City plumbing inspection.

- The plumbing contractor will arrange for the inspection on behalf of the homeowner
- **When work is complete, but has not yet been covered from view**, a City Plumbing Inspector must examine and approve the finished installations
- If the installation is satisfactory, the inspector will provide a Letter of Approval
- Plumbing Inspectors will only inspect internal plumbing and will not inspect outdoor drainage

5. Complete the Technical Information Form.

- The form must be completed and signed by both the property owner and the licensed plumbing contractor



6. Complete the Acknowledgement Form.

- The form must be completed and signed by the property owner

7. Submit the following documents to the Infrastructure Services Department no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, December 31, 2010. (contact information on page 7):

1. Completed Technical Information Form;
2. Completed Acknowledgement Form;
3. Itemized invoice from the licensed plumbing contractor for the completed work.
 - Eligible costs (page 4) should be listed separately and the total amount clearly stated
4. Copy of the Letter of Approval from the City Plumbing Inspector

8. Wait for payment.

- The Infrastructure Services Department will determine what portion of the invoice will qualify for reimbursement.
- The City is willing to pay contractors or property owners directly for the eligible costs and will make the reimbursement cheque payable to the individual or business named by the property owner. This information must be stated on the Technical Information Form
- Payment should be received within three to four weeks after submitting the documents above to the Infrastructure Services Department

DEADLINE

The Infrastructure Services Department must receive all applications for reimbursement under the 2010 Flood Protection Program **no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, December 31, 2010.**

Application for a Deadline Extension" may be submitted if the program work cannot be completed by December 31, 2010. The "Application for a Deadline Extension" must be completed in full and returned to the Infrastructure Services Department by 12:00 noon on Friday, December 31, 2010 along with a quote from a licensed plumbing contractor, including an expected date for completion of the work.

CONTACTS

Plumbing Permits and Inspections

City of Saskatoon
Building Standards Branch
(306) 975-7631

Flood Protection Program

City of Saskatoon Infrastructure Services Department
3rd Floor City Hall
222 3rd Avenue North
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5
(306) 975-2454

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT PROTECTIVE PLUMBING

It is important to note that a backwater valve is designed to be closed during sewer surcharge conditions, to keep water from the sanitary sewer system from getting into your home. When the backwater valve closes, water from the inside of your home also cannot get out. **When there is a risk of sewer surcharge, such as during a heavy rainstorm, you should avoid using the toilet, sink, shower, washer, dishwasher or any other appliance that releases water to the sanitary sewer system.** The water will not be able to get past your backwater prevention device(s) and will have nowhere to go except back into your home. This is referred to as "self-flooding" as the basement will have flooded with wastewater that originated within your home.

Protective plumbing must be properly maintained to help reduce the risk of basement flooding. For information on maintenance of protective plumbing, please contact a licensed plumbing contractor and refer to the brochure "Protective Plumbing: What Is It?".

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CONTACT YOUR PLUMBING CONTRACTOR if you have questions about:

- backwater valves
- sump pits and sump pumps
- plumbing permits and obtaining a Letter of Clearance
- other household plumbing concerns

CONTACT A LANDSCAPING CONTRACTOR if you have questions about:

- creating a drainage path for sump pump discharge
- maintenance required for effective lot drainage

CONTACT THE CITY OF SASKATOON INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES DEPARTMENT if you have questions about:

- filling out 2010 Flood Protection Program forms
- costs covered by the 2010 Flood Protection Program

City of Saskatoon website – www.saskatoon.ca:

- Plumbing permits and inspections – search under “P” for Plumbing Permits
- Basement flooding – search under “B” for Basement Flooding
- Maintenance of flood prevention equipment – search under “B” for Basement Flooding, then go to Additional Resources

City of Regina website:

- Protect Your House From Flooding – www.regina.ca and search for “flood protection”





FOR MORE INFORMATION

Building Standards Branch
975-2645

Infrastructure Services Department
975-2454

www.saskatoon.ca