

**City Ordinance
Section 53.023
Regulation of use of
Public Sewers**

(a) No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any unpolluted waters such as storm water, surface water, ground water, roof runoff, subsurface drainage or cooling water to any sanitary sewer, unless specifically authorized by the city engineer.

(b) Storm water other than that exempted under subsection (a) of this section and all other unpolluted drainage shall be discharged to such sewers as are specifically designated as storm sewers, to the street or to a natural outlet approved by the city engineer. Unpolluted industrial cooling water or process water may be discharged, on approval of the city engineer, to a storm sewer or natural outlet. Groundwater collected by building subdrains must discharge to the ground surface outside of the building, a storm drain, a sump pump collection system, or a natural outlet. No sump pump discharge to the ground surface shall create a hazard or a nuisance, including but not be limited to: ice accumulation on city streets, alleys and sidewalks; damaging a city street or sidewalk; creating ponds of standing water or algae; or flowing over adjoining property. If a storm drain or sump pump collection system exists or is constructed adjacent to the property, the property owner shall be charged a permit fee and connect the sump pump or building subdrains to the storm sewer system.



**CITY OF SIOUX FALLS
PUBLIC WORKS**

**City of Sioux Falls
Public Works – Engineering Division**
224 West Ninth Street
P.O. Box 7402
Sioux Falls, SD 57117-7402
Phone: (605) 367-8601
Fax: (605) 367-4310
TTY/Hearing Impaired: (605) 367-7039
www.siouxfalls.org

The City of Sioux Falls

**Guide to Sump
Pump Discharge**



**Prepared by
City of Sioux Falls
Public Works
Engineering Division**

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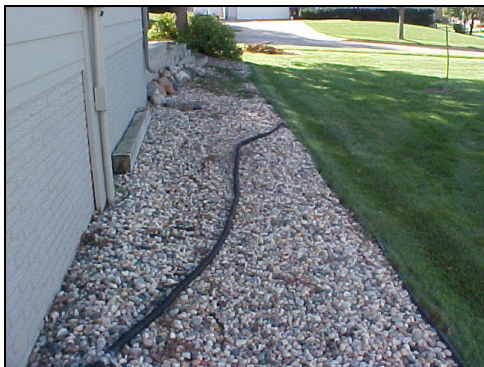
**CITY OF SIOUX FALLS
PUBLIC WORKS**

Sump Pump Discharge Requirements

Sump pumps remove groundwater from below building foundations to prevent water damage to the building. Groundwater collected by sump pumps must discharge to the ground surface outside of the building, a storm drain, a sump pump collection system, or a natural outlet.

If your sump pump is frequently operating, rains may have caused the groundwater to rise and flow into the sump pump pit. In some cases, the groundwater may remain high and cause the sump pump to run continually. The sump pump hose outside must be connected and the end of the hose far enough away from the building to prevent recycling of discharged water.

Sump pump discharge to city streets creates nuisance problems with algae buildup in the warm months. In the winter months, serious icing areas are created on the streets. The constant discharge of water to the streets reduces the life of the street surface and the curb and gutter, increasing maintenance costs for the City.



Prohibited Locations for Sump Pump Discharge

It is illegal to discharge groundwater from the sump pump to the sanitary sewer. The sewers are not designed to carry the additional flow. An overloaded sewer will create sewer backups in homeowner's basements. Also, the groundwater from the sump pumps would be pumped and treated at the City's wastewater treatment facility. The additional flow uses up plant capacity and increases the costs of treatment.

Water from sump pumps which flows across the homeowner's property line can create a nuisance for neighbors. The wet areas may cause a dispute in neighborhoods with the City acting as a mediator to resolve the issue. Sump pump discharge across the sidewalk also creates a hazardous condition.

Extending the sump pump hose across the sidewalk is also prohibited since it creates an obstruction along the walking path.

Acceptable Locations for Sump Pump Discharge

Frequently moving the sump pump hose around on the yard should prevent most of the nuisance problems in the neighborhood.

Direct discharge of sump pumps to the City's storm sewer system is the best location. As part of the storm sewer, sump pump collection systems are installed in all new developments. A majority of the collector pipes are located along the back property line with connection points (see photo below) provided for each lot. Homeowners are responsible for burying their sump pump line from the house to the collection system.

If a collection system or storm sewer does not exist adjacent to the property, the City may install a collection system based on the amount of nuisance that is created. Petitioning for a collection system in a neighborhood can improve the priority ranking.

City Engineering will issue permits to homeowners to discharge sump pump water into the sanitary sewer to eliminate serious icing problems in the winter months.

