

# SUMP PUMPS AND OUR SEWER SYSTEM



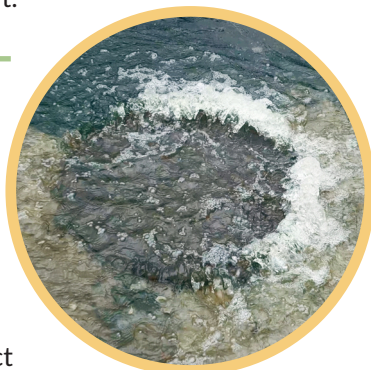
OPERATION  
*Ripple Effect*™

Since July of 2007, Oneida County has made extensive investments to meet NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Consent Order requirements to rehabilitate our aging sewer system and prevent sanitary sewer overflows into the Mohawk River. While significant critical repairs and improvements have been made to the municipal-owned parts of the sewer system, there is still important work to be done.

Now, as sewer district residents, your help is needed to reduce the amount of clean water entering our system from people's homes due to sump pump discharges and other means. Remember, it is wasteful and costly to treat clean water that gets into the sewer lines and ends up at the Oneida County Sewer Treatment plant.

## What's the problem with sump pumps?

Whether it came with your home or you have one installed, sump pumps can seem like a simple way to keep your basement from flooding. But do you know the impact this water has on the sewer system once it has been pumped?



Known as infiltration and inflow, clean water can enter the sanitary sewer system through improperly connected sump pumps. Unless your sump pump is discharging directly into a storm drain, pumped water can eventually find its way into the sewer lines.

For property owners and their neighbors, an excess of this water can cause street flooding, sewage backups, or additional sewage disruptions.

Sump pumps are one way excess clean water enters the sewer system. This issue contributed to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation issuing a consent order. The consent order states that the county needed to greatly reduce overflows into the Mohawk River.



**MOST IMPORTANTLY, IT IS  
ILLEGAL FOR SUMP PUMPS  
TO DISCHARGE WATER  
INTO THE ONEIDA COUNTY  
SEWER SYSTEM.**

## What should I do next?

### 1) Locate your sump pump!

Sump pumps can be found in the basement of the home within a small pit that may or may not have a cover. If the sump pump does have a cover, the lid can easily be removed. The pump will usually only have one pipe coming up through the lid.

### 2) Determine how your sump pump drains.

If your sump pump drains directly into a storm drain, you may continue to use it as is. If it doesn't drain directly into a storm drain or you are not sure how it drains, please contact your town or village to help you coordinate with a professional to have it checked out.



## Where can I learn more?

To learn more about the Oneida County Sewer District and keep up-to-date on additional sewer system updates and news, visit :

**[www.rippleeffectocsd.org](http://www.rippleeffectocsd.org)**



Operation Ripple Effect is a program of the Oneida County Department of Water Quality & Water Pollution Control that asks residents, businesses, and municipalities to do their part to reduce overflows. Together, we can help keep the Mohawk River clean.



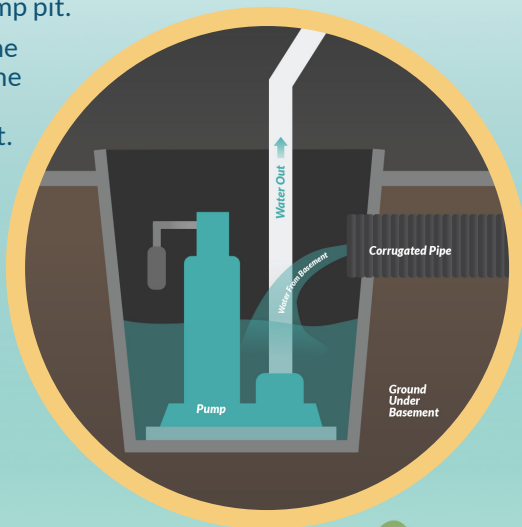
# OPERATION *Ripple Effect*™

**SIMPLE STEPS:  
BIG BENEFITS FOR THE MOHAWK RIVER**

## What are sump pumps?

A sump pump is a submersible pump that sits at the bottom of a sump pit.

It is designed to reduce the risk of water damage to the underground part of a home, such as a basement. When there's excess water around the foundation, the pump will move water up and away from the foundation.



## Where are sump pumps generally located?

Sump pumps are typically installed at the lowest point in your basement or crawl space. Most new homes are equipped with sump pumps. It will typically have one pipe and may or may not have a lid.

## COMMON ISSUES

Sump pumps typically drain in yards or sometimes in the yard next to a house foundation. If water from a sump pump drains next to the foundation of a home, it could leak back into your sump pump, overwhelm the system, and cause flooding in your basement.



## RULES & REGULATIONS

In Oneida County, it is illegal to have a sump pump that is connected to the sanitary sewer system. Please contact a professional for its removal. If your sump pump drains into a storm sewer, onto your lawn, or into a drainage ditch, you do not need to disconnect your sump pump.