

WHAT ELSE CAN I DO? BE PREPARED!!!

Buy Flood Insurance

The Town of Milk River does not pay for damages caused by sewer back-up or water pipe failure. **Coverage is not automatic, be sure to discuss your needs with your insurance agent.**

Know your responsibilities

If the sanitary sewer line becomes clogged along your service line to the main line **YOU** are responsible for its repair. The Town is responsible only for the main line.

What if My Sanitary Sewer Backs Up?

Should sanitary sewer back up into your basement, **DO NOT** flush the toilet or turn on any taps. This will only cause further flooding

TALK TO YOUR NEIGHBOURS

If everyone in Town has proper lot drainage, it's less likely your sewage system will overload in a storm.

It's especially important for you that your immediate neighbours don't have water draining from their lots or downspouts directly toward your basement.



Talk with your neighbours about drainage. Explain why it's important to you and everyone in Milk River. Show them this brochure.

WHAT PROPERTY OWNERS CAN DO TO DECREASE THE RISK OF FLOODING

DO ensure that storm water is directed away from your house and from your neighbour's property onto the street or alley.

DO keep your downspout extensions in place.

DO fill in any settlements next to your house.

DO ensure the ground slopes away from your house on all sides.

DO ensure that downspout extensions discharge in areas which will not erode, for example, onto a lawn.

DO seal cracks between driveways or sidewalks and the house foundation.

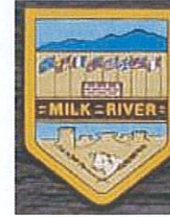
DO disconnect downspouts that are directly connected to the weeping tile or sanitary sewer.

DO disconnect sump pumps from weeping tile and redirect to street or alley.

DO consider installing a back up valve in your sanitary service line.

For information about proper downspout, lot and roof drainage, contact the Town Office at 647-3773.

IT'S UP TO ALL OF US!



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A Quick Guide to Effective Home Drainage.

A municipal drainage system just can't guarantee basement flood protection to every house in Town. Building a Town drainage system that guarantees protection against every possible storm is impossible.

An individual homeowner, however, can take steps to reduce the likelihood of flooding.

Here's the best part: if **every** Milk River homeowner took these steps, the strain on the sanitary and weeping tile systems during a rainstorm would be greatly reduced. When your neighbours join you in doing their part, there's less chance your basement will flood due to an overload in the system.

THREE WAYS TO STAY DRY

In most of Milk River, the sanitary sewer provides drainage for domestic sewage and for the water that comes through foundation drainage. This foundation drainage is what comes through your weeping tile. This tile is actually a pipe, perforated and buried at the base of your basement wall.

Two basic problems occur if too much water gets into this weeping tile:

- Even if you have a sump pump, your basement can flood through the floor drains or through cracks in the basement.
- A second problem occurs when the whole sewage system simply gets too much water. When this happens we get sewage backing up into people's basements.

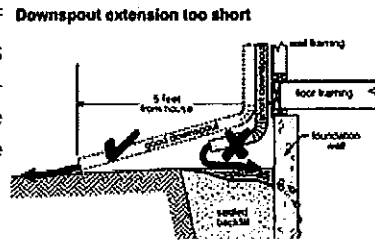
To prevent a flooded basement you want to make sure your property is draining properly. This can be accomplished by ensuring proper lot grading away from your house foundation.

Here are four steps that will help prevent basement flooding.

Note: these steps performed individually don't guarantee a dry basement - to keep the system from overloading in a storm, everyone has to pitch in!

1. Downspout Drainage

Water pours off your eaves troughs into downspouts - but where do the downspouts take all that water?

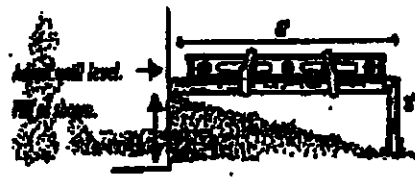


If the downspouts are dumping the water right beside your foundation, it drains directly to the weeping tile and can easily overload your sewer system..

Make sure downspouts extend at least 1.8 metres (six feet) from your basement wall. Also, be sure the water doesn't drain toward your neighbour's basement walls, It should drain away from your house toward the street or back lane.

2. Lot Grading

If the land around your home slopes in toward the foundation, rainwater heads right for the weeping tile



under the basement and can overload your home's weeping tile and sewer

system. The land around many homes settles over time, and then slopes in toward the foundation.

If your lot slopes inward, you'll want to fill in and grade the lot so that, for at least 1.8 metres (6 feet) out from the foundation, the land slopes away from your house.

3. Flood Proofing Devices

If your weeping tile or the neighbourhood's weeping tile system overloads, you may still be able to prevent rain water and sewage from backing up into your basement by installing one or more floodproofing devices, such as sump pumps or back water valves. Each installation is unique and some devices require a plumbing permit.

Make sure your sump pump is not tied into the weeping tile as the large volume of water generated by sump pumps can overload the sewage system down stream and cause your neighbour to have a sewage back-up. It is important to have your sump pump and weeping tile drain to the street or alley.

4. Plumbing Fixture Maintenance

Have a qualified plumber inspect all floodproofing devices and plumbing fixtures (i.e. sump pumps, backwater valves, floor drains, and screw caps) regularly to ensure proper operation. Keep the screw cap in the basement floor drain in place, except when draining your washing machine or water softener discharge. Keep the sewer service clean-out cap in place, as well. The floor drain is usually located in the lowest part of your basement and is covered with a round, perforated plate. The clean out is usually located adjacent to the floor drain.