

# Sump Pump Maintenance



## Regular Sump Pump Check Ups can help prevent flooding



Basement flooding is most often caused by water buildup in the soil that makes its way into your basement. A sump pump is a last defense against flooding because it pumps out water from the lowest section of the basement before the water level reaches the basement floor level. When water reaches what is called 'the critical level', the sump pump begins to pump it out through a pipe that leads outside and away from your foundation.

### **Checking your sump pump**

It is important to check your sump pump regularly to make sure that it is in proper working condition.

- ▶ Remove the cover and slowly pour water into the sump tank.
- ▶ Watch for the "float" to rise and trigger the pump.
- ▶ Once the pump is engaged, the water level will quickly lower and the float will shut off the pump. This is what is called "a normal sump cycle".



Most problems with the sump pump are float related. If the pump does not start, the float may be hanging on something in the tank. A simple repositioning of the pump should solve the problem.

- ▶ If this fails, the float may need replacement.
- ▶ If the pump fails to shut off when the water level drops to the bottom of the sump tank, this indicates a new float is needed.



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