

Protecting Your Home from Flooding

In light of the unusual extreme winter weather we have been experiencing, along with the record setting amounts of snow fall & freezing temperatures Plumbing Now has experienced an increase in frozen pipe calls as well as flooding in the past few months. With spring around the corner, the melting snow and spring showers, all this excess water will need to go somewhere let's hope it doesn't end up in your basement! So here are few helpful ideas so that if it does, you're prepared!

Sump Pumps

A sump pump is a pump used to remove water that has accumulated in a water collecting sump basin, commonly found in the basement of homes. The water may enter via the perimeter drains of a basement waterproofing system, funneling into the basin or because of rain or natural ground water, if the basement is below the water table level. Sump pumps are used where basement flooding happens regularly and to remedy dampness where the water table is above the foundation of a home. Sump pumps send water away from a house to any place where it is no longer problematic, such as a municipal storm drain or a dry well.

Battery Back Ups

A backup battery provides power to a system when the primary source of power is unavailable. There are many things that can go wrong down in the sump pit to cause basement flooding. It can be a power outage, a failed sump pump, a stuck float switch or a sump pump that cannot keep up with the inflow of water. By using a battery backup sump pump your basement will remain dry during any of these occurrences. There are certain things to consider when choosing a battery back-up, such as pumping capacity, charge strength & monitoring features. This is an auxiliary backup using a rechargeable battery. Depending on what size battery back-up you have it can pump out water for eight hours (or more) before shutting off following the loss of power. It is much more powerful than a water backup as it pumps over twenty-one (21) gallons per minute. Of course, while the backup is doing the job of pumping the potable water out, you are trying to get the main sump pump running again so that the backup can be shut off. It is never meant to be the main sump pump, however, only a "Plan B" for your main pump.

Water Back Ups

With no battery to wear out or maintain, no charger to plug in or monitor, it is designed as an automatic, independent system from the primary sump pump. The water backup runs strictly off of water power. Meaning, when your sump pump shuts down, water flows through it, causing pressure to reduce. That reduced pressure forces the water into a sump crock where it combines with city water and then flows out of the discharge line. Your water backup will run as long as you have city water. If you don't have city water, and this is very important to remember, your sump pump backup will stop pumping. It can pump over six (6) gallons per minute.

Water Back Ups vs. Battery Back Ups

Both are beneficial. A water back-up doesn't depend on electricity. You can depend on it anytime during the year. But a battery back-up pumps more water out per minute, but the battery will have to be replaced over time. So it really comes down to individual preference.

In conclusion, there are different sump pumps & battery &/or water back-ups that are available. Call Plumbing Now to have us come out to determine which ones right for you.