



RESIDENTIAL SUMP PUMP DISCHARGES

GUIDANCE FOR MICHIGAN RESIDENTS

In many homes across Michigan, sump pumps remove excessive groundwater from around the home. A sump pump is a small submersible or pedestal pump located in the lowest part of your basement that removes the collected water and pumps it to an area outside of the home. It's important to make sure the pumped water doesn't cause additional problems. Below are potential options for managing the water from your sump pump.



Submersible
Sump Pump

Option 1: Discharge sump pump water to the ground in an area where it can infiltrate

Directing the water back into the ground is the preferred management method. However, care should be taken to ensure it does not impact neighboring properties or cause nuisance conditions such as soil erosion or ponding. In addition, if basement floor drains are connected to the sump pump, the homeowner will need to make sure any pollutants or potentially spilled materials in the basement are not released to the ground as that could cause environmental contamination for which the homeowner would be liable.

Option 2: Discharge of sump pump water to a nearby storm sewer system or directly to surface waters



The water may be directed to the ground near a storm sewer catch basin or by connecting it directly to the storm sewer. However, permission from the owner/operator of the storm sewer (i.e., city, county road commission, or county drain commissioner) will be needed for a storm sewer connection.

Sump pump water sent directly to lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands is not recommended. Experience has shown that sump pump discharges could contain pollutants (from spills, flooding in the basement, etc.). It is the property owner's responsibility to comply with all laws related to the discharge of pollutants, so you are assuming liability if you choose to install a direct connection to surface waters or a storm sewer. It is also important to note that although the discharge of sump pump water to storm sewers or surface waters may be allowed, discharges from floor drains are not authorized.

Additional Information:

Wastewater discharges to groundwater

[Michigan.gov/GroundwaterDischarge](https://www.michigan.gov/GroundwaterDischarge)

EGLE Groundwater Discharge Permit Program: 517-284-5570

Wastewater discharges to surface water

[Michigan.gov/EGLENPDES](https://www.michigan.gov/EGLENPDES)

EGLE NPDES Permit Section: 517-284-9607

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