

Basement Flooding

Basement floods are frustrating and stressful. The City of Farmington wants to help with steps you can take to fight flooding, prepare your home and recover if it does occur. The first step is to know what can cause a basement flood, so then you can act where it matters most for your home.

What can cause basement floods?

- Groundwater seepage through the basement walls
- Surface runoff
- Sanitary sewer backup

How do I prevent basement floods?

Depending on the home's layout, several different approaches are available to protect the basement. Homeowners are encouraged to talk with a licensed plumber to determine the best approach for their home to resolve basement flooding.

Read more about preventing basement flooding below and refer to the attached checklist.

It is possible for property owners to purchase a sewer line maintenance insurance contract from private vendors. The City of Farmington does not offer an insurance contract, nor do we endorse any of the private vendors that offer this service.

What can property owners do?

- Check basement walls for cracks and make waterproof seals
- Seal any exterior openings to your basement, including windows and vents
- Keep water away from your home's foundation by installing downspout extensions and grading ground surface from your home
- Consider raising window wells above anticipated outside water level
- Check lateral sewer lines for blockages and root damage
- Do not dispose of grease or trash through your sink - they could clog the sewer line
- Make sure you have the appropriate permits for your repairs
- Check your homeowner's insurance coverage. Does it cover basement flooding?

What if my basement floods?

Immediately call the City of Farmington Department of Public Works at 248-473-7250 or the Farmington Department of Public Safety NON-emergency number at 248-474-4700.

Sewer backups can make you sick, damage your home, and cause risk of electrocution. Before entering your flooded basement, check for exposed wires and leaks.



PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM BASEMENT FLOODING

BEFORE A FLOOD



- Check basement walls for cracks and make waterproof seals.



- Seal any exterior openings to your basement, including windows and vents.



- Keep water away from home's foundation by installing downspout extensions and grading ground surface away from your home.



- Check your homeowner's insurance coverage. Does it cover basement flooding?



- Check lateral sewer lines for blockages and root damage.



- Consider raising window wells above anticipated outside water level.

- Consider installing a floor drain plug, standpipe, backup/check valve, and/ or sewage ejector valve depending on your specific needs. Work with a contractor if necessary and get required permits.

- Store valuables and hazardous materials in watertight containers, or remove from basement.

- Keep belongings off of the basement floor.

TWICE A YEAR:

- Clean out storm drains
- Test sump pump (if you have one)
- Clean backwater valve (if you have
- one) Maintain plumbing appliances

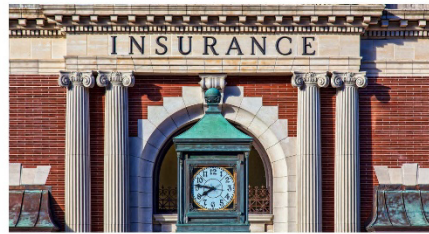
**CLEAN
TEST
MAINTAIN**

Test water alarm or get a water alarm if you don't already have one

AFTER A FLOOD



Immediately call the City of Farmington Public Works Department at 248-473-7250 or Public Safety's Non-Emergency Line at 248-474-4700.



Contact your insurance company, prior to cleaning up your basement.



Clean and disinfect the area as soon as possible.

Disinfect anything that comes into contact with flood water. Mix eight tablespoons of bleach with each gallon of water.

Use protective equipment when cleaning. Do not bring contaminated items into the house.



Discard small items and anything that can't be disinfected. Take photographs for your insurance claim.



Remove undamaged items.



Keep children out of the basement until it has been cleaned.

Remove damaged drywall within 24 hours.

Do not use heat to dry the basement.

Have a qualified service technician clean electric appliances and ductwork. You could electrocute yourself.

Obtain sanitary sewer back-up coverage on homeowner's insurance policy.