

ROOF AND SUMP PUMP DRAINAGE AND DISCHARGE



Planning, Building and Development

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East Lansing, MI 48823

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The City of East Lansing receives numerous inquiries concerning the discharge of sump pump water and rain water directly onto adjacent private property, into the city street, and any Public Right of Way. In an effort to provide guidance on how to discharge your water we have prepared the following.

The City does allow residents to connect their sump pumps, french drains, foundation drains, and roof drains to the City's storm water system with proper permitting. Keep in mind that the *storm* water system is distinctly different from the *sanitary* system, **which no storm-related connections are allowed.**

Improperly connected sump pumps cause a major problem because clear water is going to the wrong place. If your sump pump is improperly connected, rainwater can be directed into the sanitary sewer line. When this rainwater, ground water, or snow melt enters the waste water treatment system, it is known as inflow/infiltration. When this clear water enters the sanitary sewer system it overloads the capacity and can create backflow, flooding basements or causing manholes to pop open.

The discharge of sump pump water or roof drain water across city sidewalks or streets over time can cause algae growth in warm weather and icing conditions in freezing weather. In each case the property owner is responsible for any accidents that may occur and redirecting of the discharge is required to avoid any fines or penalties.

All discharge piping shall be installed in accordance with the Michigan Plumbing Code. Consult a plumber to correct any illegal connections.

Permits for the piping of the water can be applied for at City Hall Building Department in Room 217, 517-319-6871 or 517-319-6810. If you are doing the work yourself you may apply for a permit as a homeowner, if you are hiring a Plumbing Contractor they can also apply at City Hall. The fees are the same.

Permits to connect to the City storm system can be applied for at the Department of Public Works front desk 1800 E. State Rd.
517-337-9459.

East Lansing Ordinance No. 1325, amending the International Property Maintenance Code, 2006 Ed, Section 304.7 reads as follows:

*The roof and flashing shall be sound, tight and not have defects that admit rain. Roof drainage shall be adequate to prevent dampness or deterioration in the walls or interior portion of the structure. Roof drains, gutters and downspouts shall be maintained in good repair and free from obstructions. **Roof water and sump pumps shall not be drained or discharged in a manner that creates a nuisance to the owners or occupants***

of adjacent premises, or to the public. Any drainage or discharge which creates a nuisance to the owners or occupants of adjacent premises or to the public shall be abated by the owner of the drained area. For purposes of this section, a nuisance includes, but is not limited to, the discharge or drainage of water onto neighboring property, a discharge or drainage that results in the accumulation of standing or freezing water on any public property or any discharge or drainage which causes the erosion of soils on public or neighboring private property.

To report any storm water or sump pump concerns, such as illicit discharges, drainage concerns, connections, or polluted runoff from a construction site, please contact the City Building department at (517) 319-6871 or (517) 319-6810.