Regular Sump Pump Inspection & Maintenance

Description

- A sump pump is a pump used to remove water that has accumulated in a water collecting sump pit, commonly found on the lowest level of buildings. The water may enter via the perimeter drains of a basement waterproofing system, funnelling into the pit 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 the building. Sump pumps send water away from the building to any place where it is no longer problematic, such as a municipal storm drain or a dry well.

Potential Effects if Not Maintained

- Sump pumps which are not properly and regularly maintained can fail when needed most, resulting in stormwater rising above the floor level, causing costly damage.

Recommended Maintenance

- Sump pumps should be removed from the sump pits and thoroughly inspected at least once each year, during the dry season.

- Sumps should be emptied of water and debris, and the inlet inspected to ensure proper seal between the inlet pipe and sump.

- Sump pump impeller and screen should be cleaned and inspected for corrosion and deterioration.

- Submersible pumps should be cleaned, dried and coated with asphaltum or other heavy protective coating.

- Float/switch assembly should be inspected and repairs or replacements should be made as required.
• Inspect check valve in discharge line.

• Make all adjustments, repairs and replacements as required and place pump back in sump pit.

• Check all electrical connections and cycle pump to verify proper operation.

• Record all work and dates performed in the sump-pump maintenance history.

Related Links

• http://sump-pump.org/

• http://www.ext.nodak.edu/extnews/newsrelease/2005/060905/15sumppu.htm

• http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/disaster/flood/sumppumpquest.html

Contact LCEF to find an Architectural Advisory Committee member near you for additional information.