

FLOOD PREVENTION

Homeowners invest thousands of dollars to make their homes more attractive or livable. Unfortunately, renovations and upgrades can be quickly damaged by basement leaks or sewer backup caused by a rainstorm or rapid snowmelt.

In most cases you can prevent this from happening by taking a few simple, yet, effective steps:

1. Eavestroughs should be cleaned regularly and checked for leaks, poor connections or sagging. They should be inclined so water is quickly sent to downspouts.
2. Downspouts should exit at a splash pad or be connected to extensions. Extensions should end at least 1.8 meters (six feet) away from the house and directed to a street or back lane.
3. In older neighbourhoods with a sanitary and a storm sewer system, some roof downspouts are connected directly to the underground storm sewer system pipe. This is acceptable. In neighbourhoods built before the mid-1960s, downspouts were connected to a combined sewer system.
4. Good lot grading keeps water away from the foundation walls and basement windows and reduces the amount of water that seeps into underground weeping tile. Walk around your home and measure the grade from the wall. This includes under steps and decks.

The soil, lawn or other hard surface should slope downward at a continuous angle for a minimum of five feet. The height at the wall should be at least 4-6 inches higher than the ground five feet away. Grade should be checked regularly as ground settles over time. If necessary, use window wells around basement windows to adjust the grading there.

5. Waterproof cracks in your foundation walls or sidewalks with silicon. As silicon breaks down, this needs to be redone every three to five years. Inside your home, install a backflow valve. The valve will reduce the risk of sewer backup.

For more information contact:

Drainage Services
Main floor, Century Place
9803 – 102A Avenue

Phone: 780 496-5541
Fax: 780 496-2865