

**City Ordinances**  
**Chapter 11.05**  
**SEWERS**

**11.05.21: GROUNDWATER  
DRAINAGE PROHIBITED**

*No person shall make connection of roof downspout, foundation drains, areaway drains, or other sources of surface runoff of groundwater to a building sewer or building drain which is connected directly or indirectly to a public sanitary sewer.*

**11.05.22: UNPOLLUTED  
WATER DRAINAGE**

*Storm water and all other unpolluted drainage shall be discharged to such sewers as are specifically designated as storm sewers to a natural outlet approved by the Public Works Director and other regulatory agencies.*



**City of Sturgis, SD**

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**Guide to Sump  
Pump  
Discharge**



**Homeowner  
Guidelines**

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## Sump Pump Discharge Requirements

A sump pump is a small pump installed in a specially-designed pit in the lowest part of a basement or crawlspace. Its job is to keep the area under the building dry to prevent flooding and damage to the building foundation. The groundwater collected by the sump pump must be discharged to the ground surface outside, a storm drain, a sump pump collection system, or to a natural outlet.

When the sump pump operates, rain and/or snow melt may have caused the groundwater to rise and flow into the sump pump pit. The end of the sump pump hose must be far enough away from the building to prevent the recycling of discharged water.

There are restrictions to where this groundwater can go. If a sump pump discharges directly to the city street, it can create problems such as algae buildup in the spring and summer and icy conditions in the winter months. Continual discharge of water into the city street reduces the life of the street surface and can contribute to failure of existing curb and gutter, which results in large costs for the city, and for you, the taxpayer.



## Sanitary Sewer System Vs. Storm Water System



Many people do not realize that the storm water system is separate from the sanitary sewer system. The storm water system collects rain and snow melt

and directs this untreated, unpolluted water to the nearest freshwater system, such as Bear Butte Creek. It is prohibited to dump chemicals and other pollutants into storm water inlets. Motor oil, household chemicals, paints, and other common household items that get into the storm drains can poison wildlife and pollute waterways used for recreation and drinking water. However, groundwater collected by sump pumps can be directed into the storm water system.

The sanitary sewer system is a collection system that carries sewage from bathrooms, sinks, kitchens and other plumbing components to a wastewater collection



system. This sewage is directed to the city's wastewater facility, which consists of four treatment ponds, or "lagoons". After the wastewater is treated, it is used for irrigation. The city is in the process of updating this facility to a wastewater treatment plant.

## Prohibited Locations for Sump Pump Discharge

Per city ordinance, it is prohibited to discharge groundwater from the sump pump directly into the sanitary sewer system. This creates a burden for the

existing sanitary sewer system, and can result in sewer backups into your home. This extra water ends up in the city's lagoon system, using up total capacity and increases the cost of maintenance.

Directing groundwater discharge across your property line can create a nuisance for neighbors. It is unacceptable to redirect water unto a neighboring landowner's property, and can result in disputes between neighbors.

Sump pump discharge over a public sidewalk and into the storm sewer is also prohibited. If a hose extends over the sidewalk, it creates a hazard and illegally obstructs the walking path.

## Acceptable Locations for Sump Pump Discharge

A direct connection to the city's storm sewer system is the best location to discharge groundwater collected by a sump pump. The storm sewer is intended to collect clean, unpolluted water that directs to a natural body of water. If the sump pump drains onto your property, frequently moving the hose should prevent most issues with excess water on your property.



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