

## **SUMP PUMP INSPECTION PROGRAM**

The CITY OF MENDOTA HEIGHTS, DAKOTA COUNTY, MINNESOTA ORDINANCE NO. 496, section 2, subp 27, B; states “*Surface Waters: It shall be unlawful to discharge or cause to be discharged into the municipal sewer system, either directly, or indirectly, any clear water as defined in 10-1-1 of this section.*” Sump pumps should drain into the City’s storm sewer system through one of two methods:

1. A direct connection (a pipe from the house to the main storm sewer line), if available; or
2. Directly onto the ground, preferably 20 feet from the house and not into a neighbor’s yard.

### **Sump Pump FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions):**

#### **Why is the City of Mendota Heights inspecting sump pumps?**

- Millions of gallons of clean water enter the sanitary sewer and unnecessarily increases the costs for treatment at the wastewater treatment facility.
- Backup of wastewater in basements is costly to clean up and creates potential health hazards.

#### **Do I need to install a sump pump if I do not have one?**

No.

#### **What happens if I do not have a sump pump?**

You still need to have the inspector verify this information during an inspection.

#### **Which properties will be inspected during the program?**

Select residential properties throughout Mendota Heights. Designated properties were selected to represent the City as a whole. Selected property occupants will be notified by mail that they are subject to the inspection.

NOTICE

**(MAIL MERGE DATE)**

RE: Required Sump Pump Inspection

Your property is one of approximately 50% of residential homes in Mendota Heights that have been randomly selected for a mandatory sump pump inspection as indicated by City Ordinance No. 496.

Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC has been selected by the City to conduct these in-home inspections. Inspection timeframes are offered on select weekdays during the morning and afternoon. Limited evening and weekend timeframes are available to accommodate household schedules. Every effort will be made to schedule to your preference. It is the responsibility of the resident to schedule an appointment and make the property available during this timeframe. Appointment windows may be limited and are assigned on a first come, first served basis.

To schedule your inspection, please call Roni Oman at 651-288-8592 or email at [roni.oman@foth.com](mailto:roni.oman@foth.com).

**Appointments must be scheduled by (MAIL MERGE DATE)**

Additional information regarding the required sump pump inspections can be found at [<get direct FAQs link>](#)

We thank you in advance for your cooperation.



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Your Response is Required**

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Mendota Heights, MN 55128

Sample of Postcard Being Mailed Out

**When will inspections take place?**

Inspections will begin February 2017 and will continue until all selected properties have been inspected.

**Will I get to choose my inspection time?**

Inspection timeframes will be offered on select weekdays during the morning and afternoon. Limited evening and weekend timeframes are available to accommodate household schedules. Every effort will be made to schedule to your preference. It is the responsibility of the resident to schedule an appointment and make the property available during this timeframe. Appointment windows may be limited and are assigned on a first come, first served basis.

**What happens if I am not at home when the inspector comes?**

We ask your for cooperation. If you have a scheduled appointment, please make sure someone is available to allow the inspector access to your home. If the inspector is unable to gain access, you will be sent a second notice and instruction to reschedule. Failure to allow access to your residence for the inspection may result in a quarterly surcharge added to the property's utility bill.

**What happens if I do not let the sump pump inspector into my home?**

You will receive a notice in the mail stating that you have 30 days to schedule an inspection. A quarterly surcharge may be added to your utility bill until your sump pump is inspected.

**Who can I contact to fix my connection?**

Mendota Heights Public Utilities does not fix sump pump connections. Customers may complete the correction themselves, or they can contact a plumber or other home contractor to complete the work.

**Do I need a permit to correct a sump pump discharge?**

No permit is required. However, if you do plan to connect directly into an existing City storm sewer structure or discharge into the abutting city street, you will need to get approval from the Public Works Director.

**What happens if I do not correct my sump pump discharging to the sanitary sewer?**

If during an initial inspection our inspector determines that your sump pump is discharging to the sanitary sewer, you will receive written notice in the mail stating that you have 60 days to make the corrections and schedule a follow-up inspection. Our staff will then conduct a second inspection to determine if you have made the necessary correction. Failure to comply may result in a quarterly surcharge being added to the property's utility bill.

**Can I switch my discharge pipe to the sanitary sewer system during the winter months?**

No, this is not permitted.

**Can I have a bypass valve on my sump pump discharge hose?**

No, it is illegal to have a bypass valve on your sump pump discharge pipe or hose. Existing valves must be removed.

**Where can I run the sump pump hose? What type of hose works best?**

You should run your sump pump hose at least 6-10 feet away from your house to avoid it "recycling" back into the house. With approval from the Public Works Director, it is also acceptable to run the discharge in the abutting city street. Avoid discharging water directly onto your neighbor's property. The sump pump's discharge line needs to be made of solid, non-

flexible material. Smooth white PVC pipe (1/2" diameter) should provide adequate capacity, and meets City Ordinance requirements.

**Who do I contact for more information?**

Call our Sump Pump Inspection Consultant Foth Infrastructure & Environment:

Roni Oman at 651-288-8592 or email at [roni.oman@foth.com](mailto:roni.oman@foth.com)