

Stormwater Maintenance Checklist

Perform these maintenance and improvement activities on your property to **reduce the risk to your property of overland flooding and sewer backup.**

Inside the home:

- If you have a sump pump, add a backup power source
- Install water alarm sensors in the basement, near sump pump or other water sources that may leak or cause flooding
- Remove any items that could potentially block floor drain
- Seal cracks and gaps in basement windows, doors, and foundation
- Install a sewer backwater valve
- If there are valuable items in your basement, ensure they are stored in waterproof containers and are raised off the floor. Remove from basement altogether, if possible
- Check your insurance coverage to ensure you are adequately covered in the event of overland flooding or sewer backup

Lateral:

- Consider a video inspection of your wastewater lateral
- Make repairs to your wastewater lateral – lining may be an option depending on the degree of deterioration
- Consider replacing the wastewater lateral – this requires a permit from Halifax Water
- Consider installing a stormwater lateral if you live in an area with a dedicated stormwater pipe in the street - this requires a permit from Halifax Water
- Avoid planting trees or shrubs near laterals as roots can damage laterals

Outside the home:

- Extend downspout discharge pipes at least 2m (6 ft) from foundation
- Extend sump pump discharge pipes at least 2m (6 ft) from foundation
- Correct lot grading to direct water at least 2m (6 ft) away from foundation
- Install a yard drain
- Install green infrastructure on property such as rain barrels, rain gardens or grass swales
- Ensure stormwater drainage isn't creating a flooding issue for neighboring properties which could lead to a civil dispute
- Ensure stormwater drainage isn't creating flooding or icing issues on street or sidewalks which could lead to an HRM by-law infraction

Commercial Properties:

- Install a system for rainwater harvesting
- Perform regular maintenance on any stormwater management systems such as oil and grit separators, ponds, or other systems

Note: This is general information only. Consider your specific property and connections. You may wish to consult a professional.

Seasonal Stormwater Maintenance Checklist

- Checklist items and frequency of completing the checklist will vary for each property
- Consider completing the checklist twice a year, during spring and fall (unless otherwise noted)
- It is helpful to complete this checklist before a rain event or if you are planning on being away from the property for an extended period

Inside the home:

Basement

- Check that the floor drain is draining properly by pouring some water down the drain. This will also prevent the p-trap from drying out and prevent sewer gas from entering through the drain.
- If you have water alarm sensors, test to ensure they are in good working order

Sump Pump

- Test to ensure that it is working
- Test backup power sources

Lateral:

Check for signs of a leaking or failing wastewater lateral:

- Slow draining
- Frequent or persistent blockages
- Frequent toilet backups
- Foul odors inside home
- Mold issues
- Lawn patches that are greener than others
- Dips or indentations in the lawn
- Dampness on lawn
- Sinkholes at the foundation

Outside the home:

Downspouts

- Clean eavestroughs and downspouts of leaves and debris
- Check that downspouts are draining properly and away from the foundation
- Clear area around discharge pipe of ice and snow in winter
- Clear area around the discharge pipe of ice and snow in winter

Sump pump

- If sump pump drains to the yard check that it is draining properly and away from the foundation

Yard drains

- Test yard drains to ensure they are draining properly
- Remove leaves and other debris
- Remove ice and snow in winter

In your community:

Storm drains, catch basins, and hydrants

- Remove leaves and other debris
- Remove ice/snow in winter
- Notify Halifax Water of any damage or drainage issues

Visit <https://www.halifaxwater.ca/fire-hydrants-catchbasins> to use the interactive map to locate a catchbasins near you.

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