

What's the Risk?

Sump Pump Failure



THE ISSUE

Sump pump failure is a common issue that can lead to an expensive clean up, damaged structural material and ruined personal belongings. Most failures are due to a lack of maintenance, or a plugged or frozen discharge pipe. Common signs of sump failure include

- The sump basin is full of water, but the pump doesn't turn on
- The pump removes water slowly
- The pump runs non-stop or too often
- There are loud noises while the system operates
- The sump basin refills quickly
- The pump motor is hot and makes unusual noises



WHAT'S THE RISK?

Basement flooding and all that goes with it including:

- Damage to furnaces and ductwork
- Potential electrical problems if water rises to receptacle height
- Excessive moisture in the house leading to mould problems
- Chemical spills due to overturned stored chemicals or paint cans
- Dirty water and debris spread throughout the basement
- Potential electrocution if the water is deep enough to enter receptacles



WHAT CAN BE DONE?

The following tips can help mitigate sump pump failure:

- Regularly check the sump basin, the discharge pipe, the drainage system, and the device, and clean or adjust when needed
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for installation requirements and maintenance
- Install point of leak detection devices near the sump pump for advanced warning of a problem
- Test the sump pump for leaks or other issues on a regular basis
- Have a plumber install solid piping for the discharge hose rather than using thin flexible corrugated pipe
- Install a submersible pump rather than a tower pump to avoid issues related to the pump tipping over or float problems.
- Keep the area around the sump lid clean to stop debris falling into the basin
- Install a battery back-up



A sump pit with a battery backup and high water alarm

