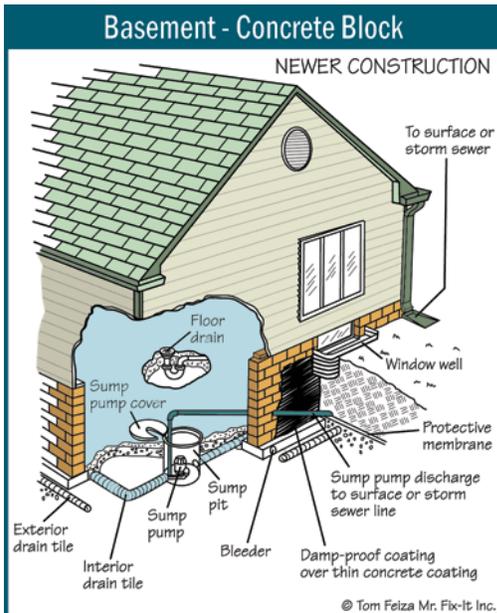


## City Of Mequon

# Improving drainage & preventing your basement from flooding



B005

## What to do when storm water enters your basement?

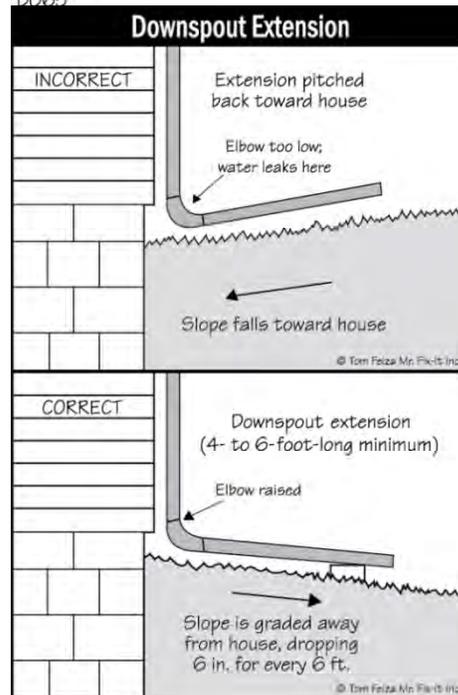
1. CAUTION! If the water is deep do not enter the basement until the water has been pumped out or the electricity is off.
2. Remove the water from your basement and begin cleanup. Storm water may contain bacteria and pathogens; residents may consider hiring a professional cleaning service that specializes in this type of cleanup. If you have a sanitary sewer connection the water may also be mixed with sewage.
3. Determine the cause of the drainage problem.

## What can you do to prevent storm water in your basement?

**Check your gutters and downspouts-** Clean your gutters and downspouts on a regular basis to clear them of leaves, dirt, and debris. Plugged gutters and leaking downspouts can cause water to run down your walls and enter your basement. Downspouts should be checked for any leaks and downspouts should be extended 6 feet away from the foundation to an area where the water will flow away naturally.

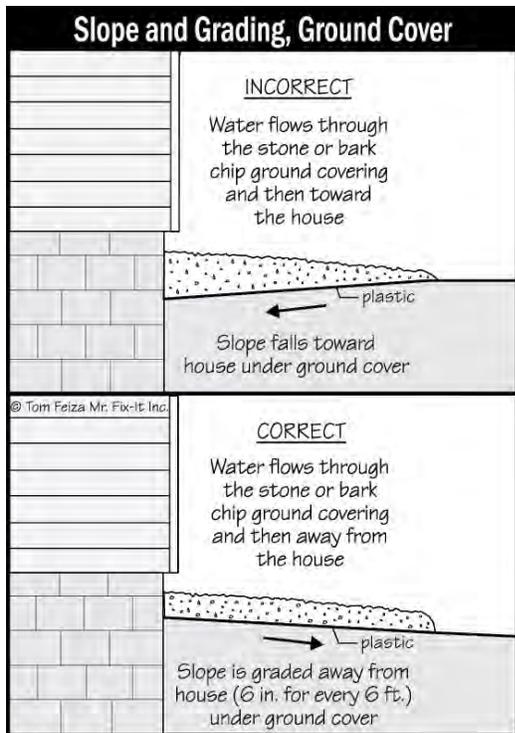


B065



B086

**Make sure water flows freely to ditches, road or storm sewer** - The soil around your foundation should be pitched away from the house for at least the first six feet. It is recommended that proper grading achieves a six-inch pitch over the course of six feet. Keep drainage ways on your property and directly adjacent to your property free of debris.



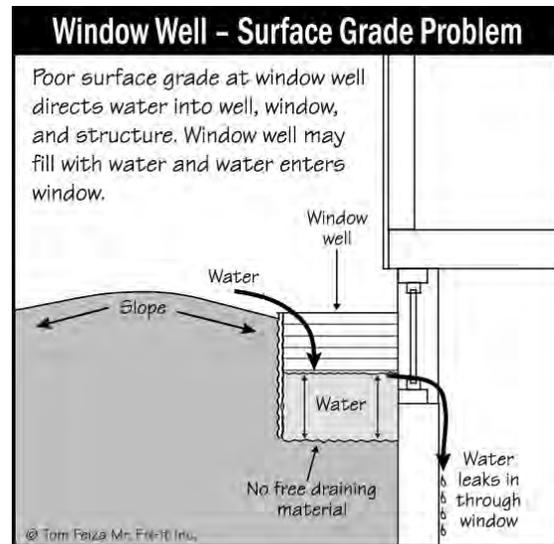
B084

**Check driveway culvert pipes and storm sewer grates. CAUTION!! Please do not attempt to unplug large culverts or catch basins yourself.**

**Contact the City Highway Department if there's blockage at 262-239-2913.** Your driveway culvert or corner catch basin may get plugged with debris. Using a rake to remove debris from your driveway culvert can keep water flowing.

**Reduce impervious surfaces or improve drainage** - Consider reconstructing poorly pitched patios, driveways, sidewalks and decks. Consider using permeable material to help absorb some of the water.

**Basement Windows** – Consider installing covers over your window wells and/or replacing windows with glass block.



B131

**Make sure that your sump pump is functioning and directed away from your foundation –**

Check your sump pump and sump pit once a year and make sure that both are free of debris and functioning properly. Make sure that your discharge pipe is far enough away from your foundation and that the discharge location conforms to Mequon's plumbing code. Contact City Hall for more information

**\*A Special Thanks to Tom Feiza, Mr. Fix-it- Inc., for permission to use the images in this document.**

**What do you do with the excess water?**

- Divert excess water to the storm sewer or roadside ditch.
- Divert excess water to rain gardens or an infiltration basin.
- Harvest water using rain barrels and re-use for non-potable uses such as irrigation or car washing.

**For Additional Information Please Visit**

Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage District

[www.mmsd.com](http://www.mmsd.com)

UW-Extension's Website

<http://clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/>

**For More Information**

Further information can be found by contacting  
the Deputy Director of Public Works/ Assistant  
City Engineer Aaron Jahncke.

Phone: 262-236-2934

Email: [ajahncke@ci.mequon.wi.us](mailto:ajahncke@ci.mequon.wi.us)

**To Report a Drainage Complaint  
Contact**

Guy Hansen, Engineering Tech II

Phone: 262-236-2934

Email: [ghansen@ci.mequon.wi.us](mailto:ghansen@ci.mequon.wi.us)

