

History

When most of Arlington County was developed, standards for drainage infrastructure were less stringent than today. As a result, there are gaps in the public storm sewer network where developers were not required to construct storm sewers.

As a result of these gaps, some property owners may not have an appropriate place for their sump pump to discharge.



Stormwater at Home

The County has a lot of great resources, webinars and more to help residents and HOAs reduce runoff and improve drainage on their property. Please visit the web site to learn more:

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/> search "Stormwater at home"



If you have an issue with sump pump discharge on your street, or have a question about connecting your sump pump to the storm sewer, please email:

stormwatermanagement@arlingtonva.us

Arlington County DES

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Water-Utilities/Sewer/Property-Drainage>

Sump Pumps

Be a Good Neighbor with your Sump Pump

Regulations

Sump pumps are legal for homeowners. New sump pumps must connect to the storm sewer, if there is an existing storm sewer present. If there is no storm sewer nearby to connect to the sump pump, the water should be discharged in your yard, approximately 10 feet from the edge of the property, to allow some natural spreading and infiltration of the water. Concentrated flow shouldn't be discharged at a neighbor's property line, or toward the public sidewalk, even if located 10 feet away. If the slope is toward neighboring properties, drainage should be directed so that it will flow away from downslope structures. Please be considerate of your neighbors when locating your discharge.

A sump pump may discharge into the street curb and gutter when the following criteria are met:

- Storm sewer is not present adjacent to the property
- Sidewalk and curb and gutter are present
- The slope of the gutter is greater than 1%
- There is no bike lane next to the gutter
- The street's speed limit is 25 MPH or less.

Sump Pump Connections

Process to apply for a sump pump connection:

- Create a sketch that will show the proposed connection.
- Apply for Right of Way permit from Arlington County.
- Have the new pipe connection installed.
- The new pipe will be privately maintained by the homeowner.



Clear the Ice

Discharges from sump pumps and other drain pipes can cause icy conditions during the winter season, or algae growth in the warmer weather.

Help keep the sidewalks safe for emergency responders, kids walking to school and your neighbors.

Re-Route Sump Pumps

If a sump pump or other drainage pipe creates an icy hazard in the sidewalk or street, or creates ponded water on your neighbor's property, try to re-route the discharge to a location that does not create a hazard or nuisance. If your sump pump flows constantly, move the discharge to different locations in your yard.

Clear the Ice

If ice does form as a result of the sump pump or other drainage from your yard, clear away the ice. You can spread some ice melt or sand (available at hardware stores) on the area or remove the ice with a shovel.

In accordance with Arlington County Code Chapter 17-6, the discharge from a sump pump must not create a safety hazard or nuisance in the public right of way.