



FOCAL POINT H O M E S

Sump Pump Maintenance

Your home is equipped with an interior sump pump system, which functions alongside other systems to prevent groundwater from entering your basement. It is normal to hear the pump running regularly, particularly during heavy rain, and sometimes even during dry spells. The pump activates when the crock fills up and raises the float and then expels water from your home. To ensure the proper function of your sump pump, regular testing and maintenance are necessary.

Testing the Pump Operation:

- Open the crock lid or inspection port.
- Pour water into the crock and confirm that the float rises freely to activate the pump.
- Ensure the crock empties completely, noting that a small amount of water remaining at the bottom is normal.
- Close the crock lid or inspection port.

Checking for Debris in the Discharge Pipe:

- Start outside the house at the discharge pipe, which is typically a 1.5" to 2.5" pipe located near the sump pump that exits through the exterior foundation wall..
- If the pipe daylights (i.e. water falls from it down to the ground), inspect the opening for any obstructions and ensure that the inside of the pipe is free from dirt or debris.
- If the end of the pipe is not visible or if it connects to another pipe, it likely attaches to a rain conductor system. Check this system for debris and also verify the pipe's integrity.

Checking for Debris in the Sump Crock:

- Unplug the pump from the GFCI outlet.
- Remove the lid or open the inspection port.
- Optionally, wipe off any dirt buildup inside the crock.
- Optionally, use a wet vac to remove any dirt or debris from the bottom of the crock.
- Plug the pump back into the GFCI outlet.
- Before replacing the crock lid or inspection port, test the pump's operation by pouring water into the crock.

Maintenance Tip for a Welled Exit (if applicable):

If your home has a welled exit, ensure that leaves and debris are cleared from the drain, especially during the fall season. This maintenance step will help the drain function correctly when needed.

NOTE: For additional protection, consider installing a battery backup system with an alarm to ensure the pump operates during power outages. Consulting with a certified plumber is recommended when exploring options and installation.