

Foundation Drain Disconnect Handout

The City of Altoona has set aside a funding reimbursement program for citizens to assist in the elimination of subsurface ground water from entering the sanitary sewer system. By doing so this will help reduce the number of times the sanitary sewer system becomes over loaded thus reducing the number of “back-ups” into your basement during a severe weather event. The City recognizes there are several areas of the community in which these issues seem to persist. Currently discussions are being held and a plan of action is formulating to address this situation. One of the first steps that will help is this program. Please read through the following information as it will take you through the steps of each Tier and ultimately compliance.

THE THREE TIERS. There are three different options (Tiers) in this program that are being provided. **PLEASE NOTE:** Tier 2 or 3 may be mandatory if you have been contacted by City staff.

Tier 1. (Least minimal and least amount of dollars reimbursed - \$700.00)

This option would require that the owner install a sump pump and discharge it to an approved location on the property. The intent is to not discharge the water into the street, especially during the cold weather months. Any connections of the buildings foundation drains must be disconnected from the sanitary sewer. This is typically at the floor drain connection. Once the City provides a storm sewer service to the property then you must connect to that service.

Tier 2. (The reimbursement amount is \$1,000.00)

This option requires the same as the Tier 1 however if you have a public storm sewer available on your side of the street then you must connect to that system. A licensed plumber will need to run the pipe and connect to the public system.

Tier 3. (This reimbursement amount is \$1,400.00)

This option is the same as Tier 1 above however if you have a public storm sewer available and it is located on the other side of the street then you must connect to that system. Again a licensed plumber will need to run the pipe and connect to the public system.

PERMITS.

Plumbing - Permits are required to perform the work. Either a homeowner can obtain the permit (Tier 1 only) or a licensed plumber (mandatory for Tier 2/3). The plumbing permit fees for the work are waived. The Building and Zoning Department is located at 1504-8th Street SW.

NOTE: If you are not an owner occupied dwelling then you must hire a licensed plumber to perform the work

Electrical - If an outlet is not present then you will either need to hire a licensed Electrician to perform the work (a permit is required for this work) or perform the work

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yourself. If choosing to perform the work yourself you must pass the City test. A fee is charged for this permit which is typically about \$20.00.

SUMP PUMP REQUIREMENTS.

The sump pump must be contained in a basket that is at least 24 inches in diameter and extending 24 inches below the basement floor level. A check valve must be installed (and accessible) after the pump. The piping from the pump shall be 1 ½" schedule 40. The joints and piping shall be glued together. The buildings foundation drains shall be connected to the sump basket and be either the same size as the existing foundation drains or 4 inches in diameter. Based on the situation different materials can be used however in most cases perforated tile should be installed.

Floor Drain – With the foundation drainage tiles disconnected from the floor drain the drain will need to be replaced (depending on the type of floor drain and size of the tile connections the drain may be able to remain if it is determined that it can be plugged in an approved manner). The same size of drain may be installed.

****NOTE: Staff would strongly advise that an air gap be installed on the exterior side of the piping, before the pipe enters below grade.****

PROCESS.

In order to qualify for the program you must follow the procedure as outlined.

- 1 Fill out an application form and submit to staff at City Hall. The form can only be obtained at City Hall. Once the form is turned in it will be directed to the appropriate department.
2. Staff will contact you to conduct a “Pre-Inspection” of your property and determine what the best method may be as well as what Tier you would qualify for.
3. Once the “Pre-inspection” has been conducted you and/or your plumber (depending on what Tier) will need to obtain a plumbing permit.
4. When the work has been completed an inspection by the Building Department will need to be conducted to verify compliance and be considered an approved system. At this time please provide a copy of all receipts as they will be turned over to City Hall by City Staff. If you have performed the work yourself you are able to claim not more than 10 hours for your labor at a cost of \$25.00 per hour. You will need to create a statement for this request.
5. Staff will approve of the system and submit all documentation to the City Clerk for reimbursement. You will only be reimbursed for the actual amount of work performed up to the dollar amount as indicated by the Tier.

NOTE: If you have been contacted by the City to disconnect your foundation drains from the sanitary sewer and are seeking financial assistance you will need to submit the application form within 180 days after the date of notification.