

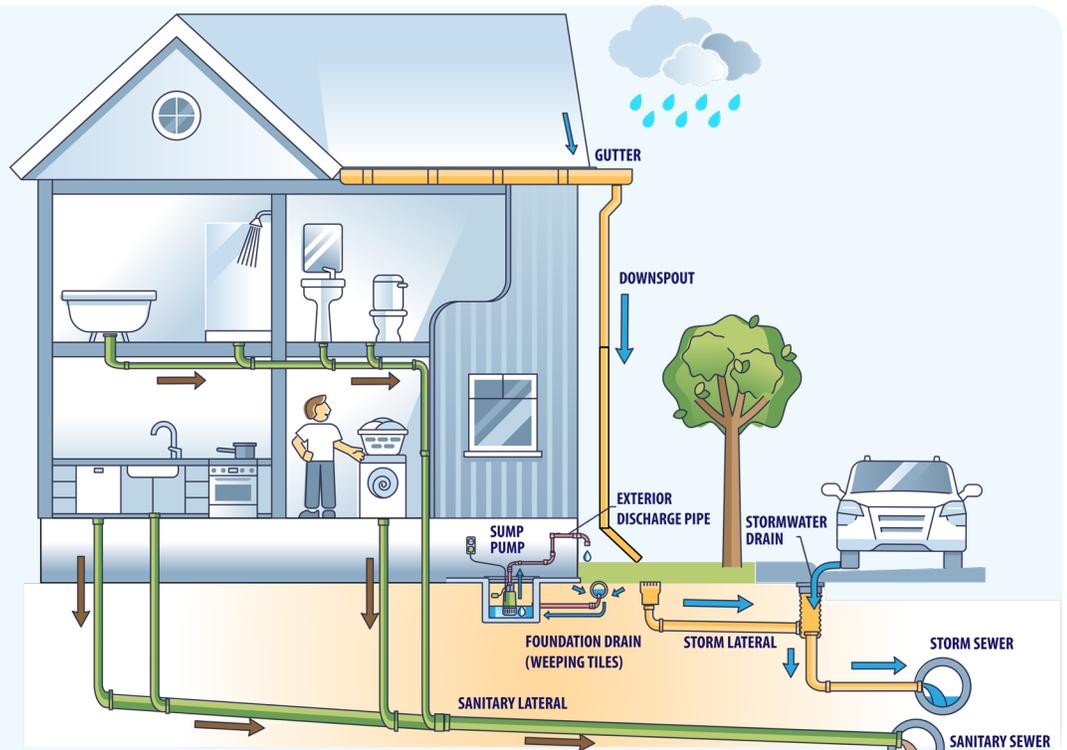
Where Does Your Water Go?

Why Storm and Sanitary Sewer Separation Matters

Why Are There Two Separate Sewer Systems?

Municipal sewer systems are separated to safely handle different types of water. **Keeping stormwater and wastewater separate protects streets, homes, and waterways**

Current sanitary systems are designed to carry only wastewater. When stormwater enters, the system can become overloaded, causing sewer backups in homes, street flooding, higher treatment costs, and environmental harm.



Storm Sewer

What it carries: rainwater, melted snow, and clean runoff from gutters, storm drains (catch basins), driveway drains, and sump pump discharge.

Where it goes: local streams, rivers, and lakes. Storm sewers prevent flooding by quickly moving large volumes of **non-treated water**.



Sanitary Sewer

What it carries: water from toilets, sinks, showers, bathtubs, washing machines and dishwashers.

Where it goes: Wastewater Treatment Plant, where it is treated before being safely released into rivers and lakes.

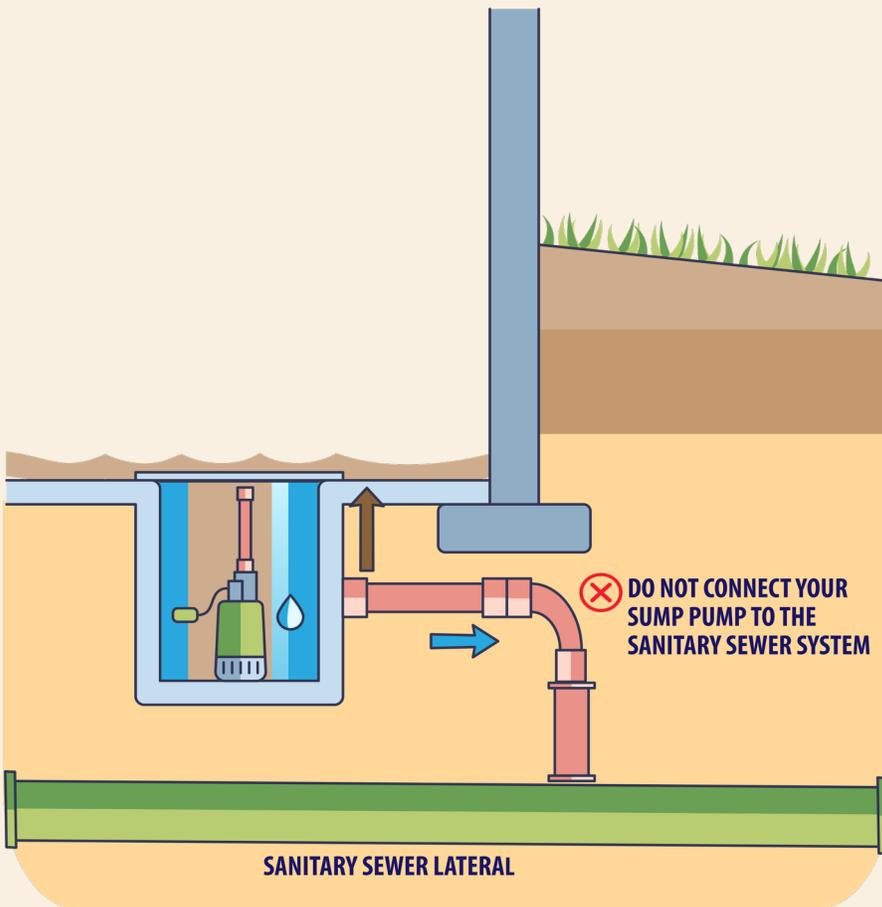


Downspouts and Roof Drainage

What's the issue? Never connect downspouts to the sanitary sewer, as this can overload the system and cause basement flooding, sewer backups, and street flooding.

What to do? Direct water away from foundations toward yards, ditches, or storm drains. If you are using downspout extensions or elbow pipes, make sure they flow freely and carry water well away from the house — not just into the soil near the foundation. Keep gutters and downspouts clear of debris and clean them regularly to prevent blockages.





Sump Pumps/Foundation Drains

What's the issue?

Sump pumps remove groundwater from around foundations. If they are turned off, not operating properly, or allowed to overflow, water can drain into the sanitary sewer. Never connect sump pumps or sump pits to the sanitary sewer. Doing so can cause basement flooding, higher treatment costs, and if a sewer backup occurs—sewage could flow back into your foundation drains or weeping tiles.

What to do:

Keep your sump pump working properly to remove groundwater from around foundations. Make sure it is connected correctly to foundation drains (weeping tiles). Direct discharge away from the house toward lawns, yards, or storm drains, ensuring pipes and extensions are properly sloped and free of clogs. Check and maintain sump pumps regularly, and consider a backup power source to keep your pump running during outages.

Why This Matters to Everyone

Managing water properly isn't just about your home — it protects the whole community and the environment. When each property does its part, it helps prevent flooding, reduces pressure on sewer systems, lowers costs for local infrastructure, and keeps rivers, lakes, and streams clean for everyone to enjoy. **One property making the right choice can make a difference.**



It's the LAW

The Ontario Building Code, environmental regulations, and municipal by-laws prohibit connecting storm drainage to sanitary sewer lines. These rules specify how connections must be installed, maintained, and inspected during construction and renovations. Homeowners and builders are responsible for compliance. **Violations can result in fines of up to \$2,000 and mandatory corrective work.**



If you are unsure how your property is connected, a licensed plumber can help.

For More Information

📞 Call: 705-753-2250

✉ Email: support@westnipissing.ca

📄 Online form: westnipissing.ca/service-request