

Q: Do I need a back-up sump pump?

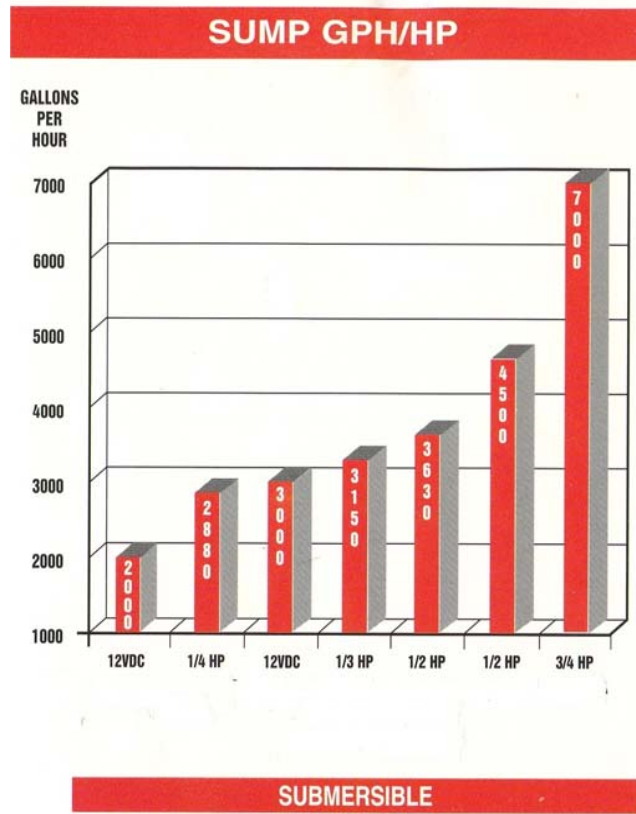
A: Most homeowner policies do not cover damage from ground water flooding. You may have invested over \$20,000 in basement remodeling, or all your important “stuff” is stored in the basement.

- Do you worry about your sump pump during a heavy rain?
- How about the next snow melt?
- While on vacation, do you think about your sump pump?
- When leaving on a business trip do you worry more about your sump pump than your family?

If you answered yes to any of those questions – you need a back-up sump pump.

Two alternative back-up sump pump systems which are reliable are:

1. Battery back-ups: which are the easiest to install. They will normally run for 18 to 72 hours, depending on cycle intervals.
2. Generator back-ups: someone has to be home to turn them on. Automatic start models can be quite expensive. They will not help in 50% of cases when the problem is the pump itself, or simply a stuck float.



Typical capacity provided by Flotec

For more detailed information on basement seepage/flooding problems, call the Engineering Division of the Department of Public Works at (630) 226-8850 or the Building Department at (630) 226-8470.

Save this brochure for your reference

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Basement Flooding Information

2008/09

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Most basement water problems are not basement problems at all, but exterior drainage problems. Take a good look (in the rain, if you must) at the drainage around your home. Make sure the gutters are not clogged, that the downspout extensions move rainwater from the roof at least four (4) feet beyond the foundation and the soil within three (3) feet of the foundation slopes away from the house.

Some frequently asked questions about sump pumps are:

Q: What size pump should I have for my house?

A: There is no “correct size”. The horsepower requirement for a house is determined by the area of drainage connected to the sump, the depth of ground water, the depth of the basement and many other factors. A 1/3 hp pump is satisfactory for most houses, however, if your current pump is having trouble keeping up with water flow, go to the next larger horsepower. First try a 1/2 horsepower pump. If that does not work, you can then try a 3/4 horsepower pump.

Q: How big should the sump hole be? What kind of hole-liner should you use? How much gravel do you put under and around it?

A: Sump pump holes should be about two (2) feet in diameter. This allows space for the pump and associated piping and to store water between pumping events (about 15 to 25 gallons). Metal or plastic liners can be used, but plastic is easier to work with and is the material of choice. Three (3) to four (4) inches of coarse gravel should be placed in the bottom of the hole. The gravel forms a solid base for the pump as well as helping to prevent mud & other debris from clogging the pump

Q: Where should the sump drain hose be run?

A: Preferably, sump water should be discharged at least 20 feet away from the house in such a way that it drains away from the house. It should not be directed onto a neighbor’s lot or into window wells. Sump water shall not be drained in a manner that creates a public nuisance, such as icing of sidewalks and streets, or ponding of water which can harbor mosquitoes.

Q: Can or should I pump into a sanitary sewer drain or basement floor drain?

A: Absolutely not. Putting additional water into the sanitary sewer system can overload the public system. Fines will be given to anyone making such a connection.

Q: What is the most common reason for sump pump failure?

A: The leading cause of sump pump failure tends to be a switching problem. Sometimes the pump can shift inside the sump basin causing the float that operates the switch to lodge against its side. Debris can also be a factor. It can interfere with operation of the pump switch. It is important to make sure that your pump switch and float arm assembly move freely. It is important to check your sump pump regularly to make sure that it is working properly:

- Remove the cover and slowly pour water into the sump pit
- Watch for the float to rise and trigger the pump
- Once the pump is engaged, the water level will quickly lower and the float will shut off the pump. This is a “normal sump cycle”.

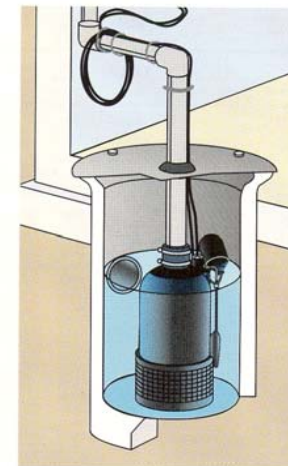
Q: What is the cost of sump pump?

A: Typically sump pumps cost approximately \$100 to \$200 for a submersible model, with 1/4 hp being the cheapest to 3/4 hp being on the high end. 1 hp models are also available. These will usually have to be ordered, as they are not a normally stocked item. Pedestal models are typically cheaper than submersible.

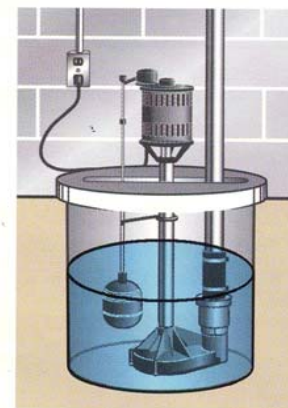
Q: Do I need a submersible or pedestal pump?

A: Submersibles are more popular because they are quieter, safer, run cooler, the motor is submersible in water, and include an automatic switch that lasts five (5) times longer on average.

Either pump will work in a typical sump basin.



SUBMERSIBLE. These models are built with a special motor that is completely submerged in oil to provide superior cooling and lifetime bearing lubrication. The sealed construction prevents dust and moisture from entering the motor and extends pump life. Because the pump sits inside your sump pit, it will be quieter, give a much neater appearing installation and will prevent children or pets from coming in contact with hot exterior motor surfaces. Vertical switch for 10” diameter pits also available. *Some have extended warranties.*



PEDESTAL. These models are equipped with motors that are mounted on a column and use a drive shaft to turn an impeller that pumps the water. Pedestal models are usually less expensive due to their design. However, because the motor is open for cooling purposes they are exposed to dust and moisture in the basement leading to shorter motor life and premature failure. Pedestal pumps can be much louder to operate. Standard one year warranty.