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CONNECT NEWS

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Sump Pumps: What They Do & How to Maintain Them to Prevent Basement Flooding

If you have a basement or crawl space, a sump pump isn't just a convenience, it's one of the most important safeguards protecting your home from water damage. Understanding how it works and how to maintain it can save you thousands in repairs and give you peace of mind during heavy rainstorms.

What Does a Sump Pump Do?

A sump pump is designed to remove excess water that collects in a sump pit, typically located in the lowest part of your basement or crawl space.

When groundwater rises especially during heavy rain or snowmelt, water flows into the pit. Once it reaches a certain level, the pump automatically activates and pushes the water away from your home through a discharge line. Without a working sump pump, that water has nowhere to go and that's when flooding happens.

Why Sump Pumps Are Critical in High Water Table Areas

In regions where groundwater sits close to the surface (like many parts of New Jersey), your basement or crawl space are constantly at risk of water intrusion. Even on days without heavy rain, pressure from the surrounding soil can push moisture toward your foundation.

A properly functioning sump pump:

- Relieves hydrostatic pressure
- Prevents water from entering foundation
- Protects your foundation and belongings

Signs Your Sump Pump Needs Attention:

Watch for these warning signs:

- Strange noises or excessive vibration
- Pump running constantly or not turning on
- Visible rust or damage
- Frequent cycling on and off
- Water not draining properly



How to Maintain Your Sump Pump

Routine maintenance is key to making sure your system works when you need it most. Here's what homeowners should do:

Test the Pump Regularly: Pour a bucket of water into the sump pit to ensure the float switch activates and the pump turns on properly.

Clean the Pit: Remove debris, dirt, or small stones that could clog the pump or interfere with the float.

Check the Discharge Line: Make sure the pipe is clear and directing water away from your home — not back toward the foundation.

Inspect the Power Source: Ensure the pump is plugged in and consider a battery backup in case of power outages.

Schedule Annual Professional Maintenance: A technician can inspect for wear, test performance, and catch issues before they become emergencies.

Professional Installation Makes the Difference

Protect Your Home Before It's Too Late

Contact us today for a consultation or free estimate
(732)610-6767
Or
service@connectplumbing.com

High water tables in your area?
Don't let a flooded basement catch you off guard!

Our technicians are ready to inspect, maintain, and replace your sump pumps to keep your home safe and dry.
From routine maintenance to emergency replacements, we've got your basement covered.

We've Got Your Basement Covered!
Basement flooding can happen fast and cleanup is expensive.

Staying proactive with maintenance and inspections ensures your sump pump is ready when you need it most.