SUMP PUMP PLAN

Sump Pump Fall Check

Ten minutes before the wet season. NDSU Extension says many pumps have not run for a year or more, so test yours before storms do.

SAFETY FIRST

- [ ] Unplug the pump before you handle it.
- [ ] Stay out of standing water near outlets, a panel or appliances.
- [ ] Hire a licensed electrician or plumber for wiring and plumbing work.

OUTSIDE

- [ ] Discharge pipe is not plugged, and directs water away from the house.
- [ ] No debris or ice in the discharge pipe or outlet.

AT THE PIT

- [ ] Pump is plugged in.
- [ ] Remove the lid and use a flashlight to look for material that could plug the pump.
- [ ] Pit is clear of debris.

RUN THE TEST (NDSU EXTENSION)

- [ ] Dry pit: lift the float for about 10 seconds to see if the pump runs smoothly, then lower it slowly. Or pour water in slowly until the float turns the pump on.
- [ ] Watch the float and listen. Make the pump turn on and off at least twice.
- [ ] Listen for gravel sounds or a sluggish float: it may need a new float or pump.

BACKUP AND ALARM

- [ ] Test an electric backup pump the same way.
- [ ] Battery backup: check every six months for charge and corrosion.
- [ ] Batteries generally need replacing about every three years (Ann Arbor).
- [ ] A high-water alarm warns you the pit is rising. Check its battery.

DECIDE

- [ ] Pump over 7 to 10 years old? Boston's useful-life estimate: plan to replace it.
- [ ] Lose power often, or have a finished basement? Consider a backup.
- [ ] Water in the basement near outlets or the panel? Stay out and call a licensed electrician.

General information, not plumbing or electrical advice. Check local codes and permit rules before replacing or adding a pump.

Free 'Does my sump pump need a backup?' checker: sumppumpplan.com/does-my-sump-pump-need-a-backup/ · NDSU Extension, City of Ann Arbor and City of Boston (details on the site)

Sump Pump Plan is published by DARCA LLC, Nampa, Idaho. General information only.