

September, 2005

Basement Flooding Protection Subsidy Program

On August 19, 2005, more than 150 mm (6 inches) of rain fell in a three-hour period in the northern part of Toronto. This heavy rainfall caused hundreds of basements to flood. To help residents who experienced flooding and to prevent future flooding, the City of Toronto is offering eligible single-family, residential homeowners a subsidy to install flood-prevention devices on the internal plumbing of their homes. (This subsidy program has been extended to those who experienced flooding in 2000 and the blackout in 2003.)

How can you protect your home from flooding?

You should consider the installation of flood-prevention devices if your basement has flooded frequently, or is used to store valuables. The Basement Flooding Protection Subsidy program will assist eligible homeowners to take the necessary precautions to reduce their property's flooding risk.

Isolating your property from the city sewer system protects it from having water or sewage enter when there is a high volume in the public sewers. The subsidy program provides you with an opportunity to install a back-water valve and/or sump pump and receive a cash subsidy for devices and labour (following certain conditions). You must have your eavestrough downspout disconnected from the sewer system to receive the subsidy.

Who is eligible?

- Homeowners who experienced basement flooding during the major storm of August 19, 2005 and reported it to the City of Toronto (Toronto Water staff or local Councillor).
- Homeowners who can provide proof that they advised their insurance companies of their basement flooding in a timely manner following the August 19 storm.
- Subsidies will be available on a first-come, first-served basis up until February 1, 2006.

Each property owner should carry out a site assessment with a Toronto-licensed plumber to determine the suitability of isolating their property from the sewer system.

The total subsidy can be up to \$3,200, what does that include?

- A: Back-water Valve

In consultation with a Toronto-licensed plumber, you may determine that a back-water valve is sufficient protection on your sanitary sewage connection.

Subsidy = 80% of the invoiced cost up to a maximum of \$1,000 including eligible labour, materials, permit and taxes.

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- **B: Sump pump**

In consultation with a Toronto-licensed plumber, you may determine that a sump pump is required to manage the water normally collected by footing weeping tiles and draining to the sanitary or combined sewer.

Subsidy = 80% of the invoiced cost up to a maximum of \$1,500 including eligible labour, materials, permit and taxes.

- **C: Back-water valve + sump pump**

In consultation with a Toronto-licensed plumber, you may determine that both a back-water valve (called a Mainline Fullport back-water valve) and a sump pump are required (see details above).

Subsidy = 80% of the invoiced cost up to a maximum of \$2,300 including eligible labour, materials, permit and taxes.

- **D: Downspout disconnection**

To be eligible for any of the above subsidies, your property's eavestrough downspouts must be disconnected from the sewer system. You can participate in the City's free Downspout Disconnection Program or complete the work as part of this program. Call 416-392-1807 for details about the free program.

Subsidy = 80% of the invoiced cost up to a maximum of \$500 to perform or supervise the disconnection including eligible labour, materials, permits and taxes.

- **E: Pipe severance and capping**

In consultation with a Toronto-licensed plumber, you may determine that in addition to other installations (back-water valve and/or sump pump) the severance and capping of the footing weeping tile pipe location outside the foundation walls is required.

Subsidy = to a maximum of \$400 including eligible labour, materials and taxes.

Note: The difference between submitted costs and the maximum subsidy for any one type of installation cannot be applied in part, or in total, to another type of installation when calculating the total homeowner's subsidy. Homeowners are allowed only one subsidy payment for the appropriate installation or combination of installations per each eligible homeowner in Toronto through this subsidy program.

What are the subsidy requirements?

- To be eligible for any of the subsidies, the homeowner's eavestrough downspouts must be disconnected from the sewer system.
- One or more detailed quotation(s) from Toronto-licensed plumber(s) must be obtained.

What is the City doing to help prevent basement flooding?

The City is working on a program of sewer system improvements and preventive measures to help alleviate basement flooding. The City of Toronto also has an approved Wet Weather Flow Management Master Plan. The plan's goal is to reduce, and ultimately eliminate, the effects of wet weather flow – runoff that is generated when it rains or snows. Implementation is expected to span over 100 years, but an achievable 25-year plan has been established with an estimated cost of \$40 million per year. The plan contains 13 objectives for improvement under four major categories: sewer systems; water quality; water quantity; and natural areas and wildlife.

For more information call Toronto Water at 416-338-8888 or visit toronto.ca/water

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Steps to apply for the Basement Flooding Protection Subsidy Program

1. **Fill out pre-approval application attached.** You will receive a response to your application within two weeks. After receiving approval, proceed to Step 2. (Subsidies will be available on a first come-first, first-served basis up until February 1, 2006.)
2. **Obtain one or more detailed work estimate(s).** A plumber with a City of Toronto Plumbing License must assess your property and recommend the right installations to satisfactorily isolate your home from the sewer system. You are responsible for choosing the best solution for your home.
3. **Apply for a City plumbing permit.** Either you or your hired plumber must apply to the City for a permit to undertake the work. The appropriate Basement Flooding Protection Subsidy will be granted if the proposed installation meets the Building Code. To get a permit:
 - You or your authorized agent (i.e. plumber) must present technical sketches or drawings, meeting the Building Code, of the proposed home-isolation installation to any of the City of Toronto's Plumbing Permit Offices.
 - The property owner's signature must be on the sketch or drawing indicating agreement with the proposed plan.
4. **City plumbing inspection.** When the work is complete, you (the homeowner) must request the City's plumbing inspector to examine and approve the finished plumbing work. The inspector will determine whether or not the eligible elements, noted in the technical proposal, have been installed in a manner that meets the Building Code. If the installation is satisfactory, the inspector will provide you with a confirmation certificate.
5. **Submit the following to Toronto Water for payment:**
 - the plumbing inspector's confirmation certificate
 - a detailed work estimate from a Toronto-licensed plumber
 - copy of selected plumber's itemized invoice for completed work.
6. **A cheque will be mailed to the property owner within six to eight weeks.**

Elements eligible for subsidies: Assessment costs (site visit by selected plumber); labour costs; back-water valve (approved by Building Materials Evaluation Commission); flood alarm (attached to back-water valve); couplings; pipe; plastic valve access box; concrete and gravel; sump pump; plastic sump barrel; electrical wiring; pump discharge hose; exterior concrete spillway for sump pump discharge water; private drain pipe capping device; exterior pit excavation (to permit drain capping); downspout disconnection rearrangement of property's eavestrough gutters and downspout system (removing direction connection to the sewer system); City of Toronto plumbing permit; and GST and PST.



**Pre-Approval Application Form
Basement Flooding Protection Subsidy Program**

Complete and mail to the address listed below:

Please check one, or more, of the following:

- I did contact my Councillor and/or Toronto Water staff about my basement flood that occurred during the August 19 storm.
- I did contact my insurance company about my basement flood that occurred during the August 19 storm.

Name _____

Address _____ **Postal Code** _____

Mailing Address* _____

** If mailing address is different from the property address:*

Telephone (home) _____ **Telephone (business)** _____

Date _____ **Signature** _____

The personal information on this form is collected under the authority of the City of Toronto Act, 1997 and Municipal Act, 2001, S. 227. The information is used to inquire about eligibility for a Basement Flooding Protection Subsidy Program grant. Questions about this collection can be directed to Manager-Operations, Coordination, District Operation, North York Civic Centre, 5100 Yonge St. Toronto, ON M2N 5V7.

Notwithstanding any inspection of the plans, specifications and installed work by the City, the homeowner acknowledges that the City does not in any way warrant the appropriateness of the design, the materials, the effectiveness, the workmanship, or the work carried out with respect to the isolation installation selected by the homeowner.

The homeowner is responsible for all maintenance that may be needed to ensure the devices continue to operate effectively.

In consideration of the payment of the grant by the City, the homeowner releases the City and its staff from any liability and agrees not to make any claim against the City or its staff in relation to the installation, the work of the grant.

Mail the completed application form to:

Toronto Water • North York Civic Centre • 5100 Yonge Street • 2nd floor • Toronto, Ontario
M2N 5V7, or call 416-395-6376.

Visit our Web site at www.toronto.ca