

Keeping Sewer Rates Low Through Proper Connections



**Joint Meeting
of Essex and Union Counties**

Wastewater Treatment Plant

Where does wastewater go?

In your community, **wastewater** from homes and businesses is directed to the Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties through the **sanitary sewer system**. Joint Meeting treats the wastewater and safely releases it into the environment.

Where does storm water go?

Storm water (rain, melting snow and other precipitation) that ends up in the street goes into the **storm sewer system**. Storm water is also carried away from your property through appropriate landscaping and proper downspout and sump pump connections, ending up in your yard or in a storm sewer. **Storm water is not intended to go into the sanitary sewer system.**

What is the growing problem?

Storm water is entering the sanitary sewer system through improperly connected downspouts and sump pumps. This has resulted in an increasing amount of storm water that Joint Meeting needs to process unnecessarily. During wet weather events, Joint Meeting treats as much as three times the number of gallons of water as the facility treats on an average dry day.

How does this problem affect me?

Improperly connected downspouts and sump pumps are not only illegal, but also may result in higher costs for taxpayers since Joint Meeting must treat this additional inflow of water. If the situation is not corrected, the facility may need to upgrade its treatment plant, resulting in higher costs for the municipalities it serves. Currently, Joint Meeting's per household rates for wastewater treatment are among the lowest in New Jersey, and we want to keep it that way.

What is Joint Meeting?

The Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties owns and operates a wastewater treatment facility located in Elizabeth and serves more than 600,000 residents in communities in Essex and Union Counties. Member municipalities are East Orange, Hillside, Irvington, Maplewood, Millburn, Newark, Roselle Park, South Orange, Summit, Union, and West Orange. In addition, the City of Elizabeth and portions of Livingston, Orange, Berkeley Heights, Linden and New Providence are currently served as customer municipalities.

Joint Meeting receives residential, commercial and industrial **wastewater** from these member and customer municipalities, as well as **storm water** inflow from the combined sewers in the City of Elizabeth via the Joint Meeting Trunk Sewer Collection System. After a complex process that removes polluting contaminants, clean, clear wastewater is discharged to the Arthur Kill, a channel of water separating New Jersey and Staten Island.

Joint Meeting is governed by a Board of Directors, comprised of representatives from each member municipality. The Executive Director of Joint Meeting is Samuel T. McGhee. For more information about Joint Meeting, please visit our Web site at www.jmeuc.com.

Joint Meeting Tours

We welcome public and private school students, Girl Scout and Boy Scout Troops, and volunteer groups to tour our facility and better understand what we do — from the collection of wastewater to processing and treatment. If you are interested in finding out more or want to schedule a tour, please contact us at 908-353-1313.

How does this affect the environment?

There are also health and environmental concerns. If storm water overloads the sanitary sewer system — primarily due to improperly connected sump pumps and downspouts — untreated sewage could flow from manholes onto local streets, enter a storm sewer and be discharged into local bodies of water as contaminated water. Backup of wastewater into residential and commercial basements can also occur, resulting in an unhealthy and costly situation for those affected.

Why should I care?

Residents and businesses need to do their part to make changes as soon as possible to help keep down costs to taxpayers, to prevent their basements from flooding, and to keep contaminated water out of rivers and streams. Also, when a home or business owner sells a property, an inspection could reveal one of these illegal connections, requiring the owner to correct it.

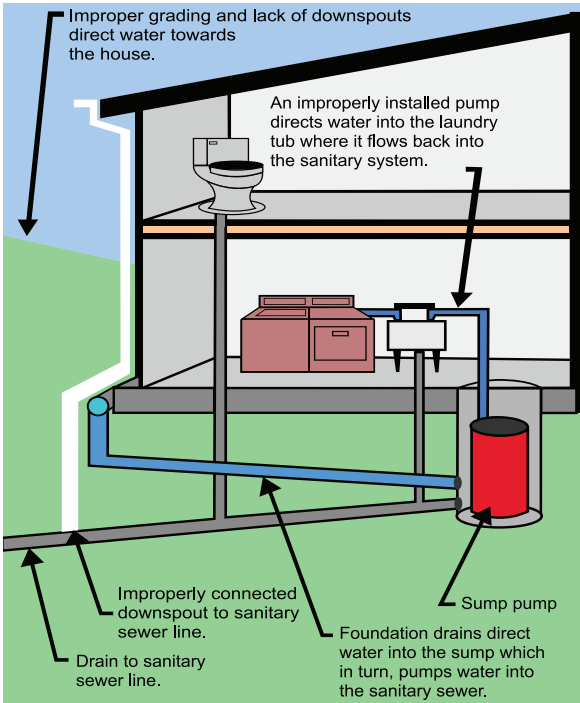
How can I help to solve this problem?

Many of the causes of increased storm water inflow can be corrected by you, the homeowner or business owner. For example, a sump pump that is now improperly connected to an interior drain, such as a washbasin or basement sewer cleanout pipe, can be redirected to the outside. A roof drain or downspout that is now improperly connected to the sanitary sewer system can be redirected outside to a rain barrel or splash block. **You** can make a difference by correcting any improper connections.

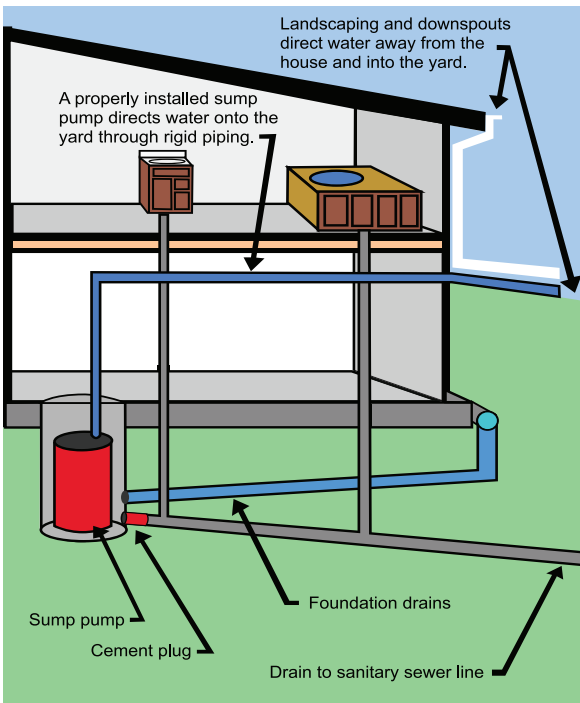
To determine if you need to make changes or if you have any questions about correcting a connection, please consult a plumbing inspector, your local department of public works, or call Joint Meeting at 908-353-1313.

Remember, you **can** make a difference!

Improper Connections



Proper Connections



www.jmeuc.com



Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties

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