

Sump Pump Disconnection Program

Beginning in September 2015, all homes and businesses connected to Montezuma's sanitary sewer system will need to be inspected for improperly connected sump pumps. Per City Code, Chapter 95, sump pumps need to discharge to the storm water system or to your yard.

Why is the City doing this?

During times of wet, rainy weather, water collected by footing tiles, which is substantial, collects at a low point in basements and is then discharged via a sump pump. Sanitary sewers were not designed to accommodate the volume of water generated by subsoil drainage systems. Water from sump pumps that discharge into a sanitary sewer system can cause backup of sewage water into basements and an expensive overload to the sanitary sewer system.

Additionally, the City of Montezuma was issued a new wastewater permit by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in May of 2015. In order to meet the requirements of the new permit, the City needs to reduce the amount of ground water that is making its way into the sanitary sewer system. Reducing this inflow and infiltration (I & I) will reduce sewer expenses and give the City more cost-effective options for addressing several other DNR requirements of the new permit.

What do I need to do?

Call the City Office at 623-5617 prior to October 16th, to schedule your inspection. Inspection times are available both during the day and evening (see back of this notice). You may also have the inspection conducted by a State of Iowa licensed plumber. There is no charge to have City staff perform the inspection.

I don't have a sump pump, do I still need an inspection?

Yes, all homes and businesses need to have an inspection. The only exceptions are trailer homes in Montezuma's mobile home parks and individual apartments in apartment buildings.

I don't know if my sump pump is connected properly or not, what should I do?

Contact the City or a licensed plumber for an inspection, either will let you know if your connection is proper or not.

My sump pump is discharging to the sanitary sewer, what should I do?

Contact a licensed plumber or City Staff to review your correction options.

I rent my home, am I responsible for having my home inspected?

The property owner is responsible for the inspection, but may need your cooperation in allowing the inspector into your home.

How much time do I have to have my home inspected?

To avoid a surcharge, all inspections must be completed by October 31, 2015. If you have an improperly connected sump pump, the connection needs to be corrected within 30 days of the inspection to avoid the surcharge.

What is the surcharge?

Beginning in November 2015, a surcharge of \$25.00 per month will be added to property-owners' bills for all those who have not scheduled an inspection or have an improperly connected sump pump. That surcharge increases by \$25.00 each year until it reaches the current maximum of \$100.00. The surcharge can be removed by having your property inspected and verified as not having a sump pump or having a properly connected sump pump.

Available Inspection Dates

Inspection appointments are available from 7:30am to 4:00pm every week day and also on the following evenings:

Monday, September 14th

Tuesday, September 15th

Wednesday, September 16th

Thursday, September 17th

Tuesday, September 22nd

Thursday, September 24th

Monday, September 28th

Tuesday, September 29th

Wednesday, September 30th

Thursday, October 1st

Tuesday, October 6th

Thursday, October 8th

Monday, October 12th

Tuesday, October 13th

Wednesday, October 14th

Thursday, October 15th

Tuesday, October 20th

Thursday, October 22nd

Monday, October 26th

Tuesday, October 27th

Wednesday, October 28th

Thursday, October 29th

Call 623-5617 by October 16th to schedule your inspection.