

How to Protect Your Home from Storm Water Damage

1. **Check the roof and walls.** Check to see that the roof and walls are in good condition with no gaps around the chimneys, windows, vents, etc. Tuckpoint brick walls and caulk and plug all openings as even small gaps can allow water infiltration. Install a chimney cap to prevent rainwater seeping down the chimney.
2. **Check basement walls and foundation.** Water must be kept away from the house to lessen the possibility of water infiltration. Check often to ensure that gutters and downspouts are not plugged with leaves and other debris. They should extend far from the house. Grade landscape beds so that water flows away from the house. Window well covers should be installed where possible. Inside the house all wall and foundation cracks should be sealed. Finally, it may be necessary to install a sump pump to remove ground water under the basement floor. If you have a walk out basement or a garage that is below grade with an outside drain, be sure to clear the drain from debris and rod the drain periodically.
3. **Protect your house from sewage back-up.** The Village has made improvements to the sewer system to handle most normal rain storms; however, in severe rain storms sewers can fill up causing water to backflow into basements. The two most common methods to prevent basement back-up are overhead sewers or a backwater valve flood control system.

Overhead sewers

In an overhead sewer system waste water from the first or second floor is removed from the house through a pipe connected to the Village sewer that is at a higher level than the Village sewer. The higher elevation helps prevent water from backing up into the house. An ejector pump is installed in the basement to pump water from the laundry and basement bathroom to the elevated sewer pipe.

Backwater valve flood control system

Backwater valve flood control systems only allow water and wastewater to flow in one direction – out of the home. An underground structure is installed in the front yards. It is important that this valve is maintained annually to prevent failure during a storm. An electric pump forces water out of the house if sewers are full.

Both systems require electricity and should have a backup battery or generator system to ensure operation if the power goes out. A plumber can advise you on the best option for your property.