

# Project DRY BASEMENT

Columbus Division of Sewerage and Drainage

## What is Project Dry Basement?

Project Dry Basement is a program designed to prevent sewer backups in single and two-family homes in Columbus due to surcharging in city sewers from heavy rain or sewer blockages. If a home is eligible, the Department of Public Utilities will provide installation of an approved backflow prevention device on your home sewer line, using an approved plumbing contractor.

### What does the program cost to the homeowner?

Nothing. If approved, the city will pay for all labor and materials. The homeowner only needs to be present to provide access for installation. Certain conditions for rental properties apply (see next column).

### What backflow device is being used?

A Rectorseal Clean Check backwater valve or other similar device approved by the city.

### How does it work?

By water pressure. When water rises in the sewer a valve closes, preventing backflow into the basement drain. It is automatic and requires no electricity.

### Should I limit water usage while the device is in operation?

Yes, which should be the case without the device if you had a backup; the only difference with the device is the absence of sewage in the basement. The owner is responsible for following all instructions from the manufacturer.

### Will I be responsible for future maintenance?

Yes. It will become part of your home sewer line, which property owners are responsible for maintaining. Like any mechanical device, routine maintenance may be necessary for reliable operation. The manufacturer's operating instructions will be provided to you at the time of installation.

### Who is eligible for the program?

Any Columbus single or two-unit duplex property with at least one backup verified to be related to a city sewer surcharge or blockage reported to the Division of Sewerage and Drainage since 2004 is eligible. Not eligible are: backups caused by a private property

sewer problem, multi-family properties (larger than a two-unit duplex), non-residential properties and those not located in Columbus.

### Is the program available for rental properties?

Yes, but the property owner must apply. Rental properties are subject to a health and safety city code inspection for a fee of \$240 per unit.

### How do I become eligible for the program?

**Please report a sewer backup as soon as you aware by calling 311, 645-3111 or directly to Sewer Maintenance at 645-7102.** If the property is determined eligible for the program, an application will be mailed.

### What if I have not been reporting backups?

The next time a backup occurs, please report it.

### Does this program change the claims policy?

No. The claims process and policies remain the same. The city is under no legal obligation to provide this program, but is offering it as an individual household solution to prevent future basement backups.

### Aren't capital improvement projects planned to address the wet weather sewer capacity issues?

Yes. A Wet Weather Management Plan was developed and submitted to the Ohio EPA; however, constructing the improvements will take many years.

### Will this program help wet basements due to water seeping through walls and windows?

No. It is intended only for sanitary sewer backups that originate from a basement floor drain. Water seepage through a wall or window is usually a private property issue for which the owner is responsible to correct.

For more general information, please call 645-5590.



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