

Comfortable LIVING

SPRING 2021

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Sump Pump Protection

You can be forgiven for forgetting about your sump pump. It's below ground in the lowest part of your house, likely in a cold room or corner you avoid. That is, until a thunderstorm dumps bucket loads of rain into your yard that threatens your basement. Unfortunately, power outages accompany many storms so the probability of being in a situation where you have no sump pump during a downpour goes up.

Whether or not power goes when you need your sump pump to perform, here are some tips to increase protection from basement flooding.

Maintenance

Your sump pump removes ground water that would otherwise enter your basement so keeping it in working order is critical for protecting your home. As with any equipment in your home,

There are ways that your pump can fail. Don't procrastinate maintenance of your pump. Regular cleaning and inspection of the pump and pit will ensure you're not faced with a pool in your basement after a rainstorm or snow melt.

Battery Operated Backup

For protection during a power outage you need a backup that does not run on electricity. One common option for a backup is a battery operated system that's set higher than your main pump. It only comes on when your sump pump

fails and your sump pit starts to fill right up with water. For this reason, you will have to be cautious about having your battery operated sump pump become your main protection from flooding. Check your sump pit regularly even if you install this system because if your main sump pump fails outright (not just due to a temporary outage), you could risk failure of this backup as well.

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Joke Section

Why are trees very forgiving?

Because in the Fall they "Let it Go" and in the Spring they "turn over a new leaf".

Does February like March?
No, but April May!

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Sump Pump Protection

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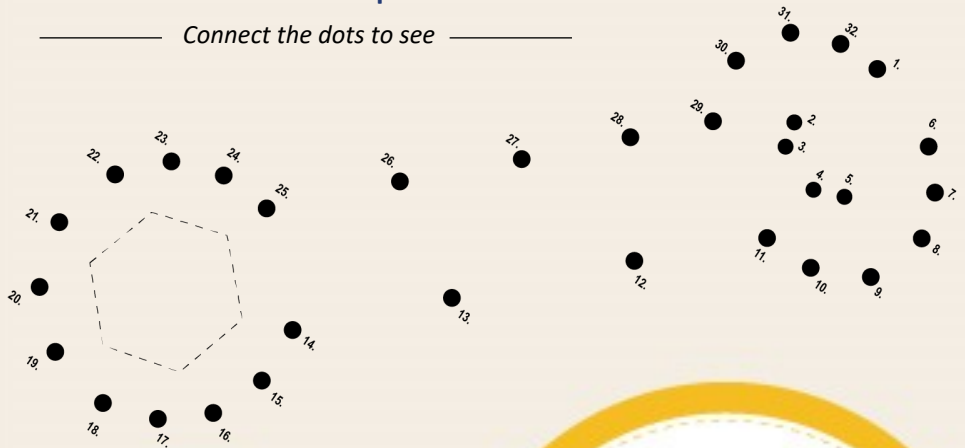
As with the battery operated option, a water powered system does not rely on electricity to run, and comes on only if the water level in your sump pit rises because of your main pump's failure. Instead of using battery power, it uses the venturi effect by passing city water through a constriction at the top of the sump pit. This pulls up any water in the pit above the pump level.

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CONNECT THE DOTS

Which tool is needed on a plumber's visit?

Connect the dots to see



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Once again, you need to pay attention to the run time of your water powered sump pump. If you find it running even when there's electricity, get a professional to look at your primary sump pump. It's likely that your main pump has failed or jammed and your backup is now preventing a basement flood. Pay attention to the quantity of water being discharged (water powered sump systems discharge more water) and your water bills.

If you need help assessing your sump pump system and/or to add a backup that protects your home, give us a call.





TIPS FOR LETTING GO OF CLUTTER

Reducing clutter in your house is a great way to start off the year. It might seem daunting, but the impact on your mental and physical health are well worth it. So set aside some time and start clearing out your home. Easy, right?

Not for everyone. Removing stuff from our lives isn't always as clear cut as the gurus make it out to be. Here are some tips that will make it easier to say goodbye to clutter.

Imagine open space

Instead of focusing on the negative (getting rid of), think about the positive aspects. Your house gets bigger by the square footage that was occupied by all that extra stuff. Whether it's a big piece of furniture or a small stack of papers, the space will open up as soon as extra items are out the door.

Take note of what you use

It's no use throwing out stuff you know you'll need or are currently using, unless you plan to use another tool for the same task. At the same time, it's easy to hold on to things for "possible future use" or "just in case". Before you start decluttering, make notes of what your family frequently uses.

Let go of guilt

Guilt may be one of the things holding you back from getting rid of loose items in your home. Even as you try to clear your home, you may feel guilty about holding on to items, as much as you feel guilty about getting rid of anything. If you are clear on what you need and want, release the guilt holding you back.

Someone else can use it

Instead of thinking of it as getting rid of your stuff, consider the fact that someone else will actually make use of items that have been sitting in the bottom of your drawer. If it helps, think of it as a gift of your generosity. Instead of holding on to three coats, give one to someone who would otherwise struggle during winter.

Let go of the past

Mementos are sometimes the hardest things to remove from our lives. Touching them seems to bring back the warm memories of that time when we were young, the kids were little or life seemed easier. Instead of keeping baby toys belonging to your eighteen year old, consider taking a photo or commissioning a small painting for really special items.

Once you get into the right mindset, removing clutter from your home will become easier and you'll enjoy your home even more.



Cheesy Buffalo Chicken Dip



INGREDIENTS:

- 2 Bone-In Chicken Breast Halves
- 1 Cup shredded Cheddar Cheese
- 3/4 cup Blue Cheese Dressing
- 3/4 cup Ranch Dressing
- 1/3 cup Hot Pepper Sauce
- 1 (8 ounce) cream cheese
- 1 tsp Olive Oil
- 1 Stalk Celery

DIRECTIONS:

- Place chicken breast in a large saucepan; cover with water. Boil until cooked through, about 20 minutes. Remove from water, and cool. Pull meat from bones and skin. Shred meat and reserve.
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
- Heat olive oil in large skillet. Stir in celery; cook until soft. Mix in the cream of cheese, blue cheese dressing, and ranch dressing. Cook and stir until smooth and creamy. Stir in the shredded chicken and hot sauce. Spoon mixture into an 8x8 baking dish. Sprinkle with the shredded cheese.
- Bake in preheated oven until golden and bubbly, about 30 minutes.

SOURCE: www.allrecipes.com/recipes