The City of Woodstock promotes and supports a high quality of life that ensures a safe and secure environment, fosters new opportunities and provides responsive customer service for the entire community.

NATIONAL TRUST for HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DOZEN DISTINCTIVE DESTINATIONS 2007

Woodstock is proud to have been recognized as a Distinctive Destination by the National Trust for Historic Preservation

Important Phone Numbers

Woodstock City Hall
815-338-4300

Woodstock
Department of Public Works
815-338-6118

Woodstock Police Department
(non-emergency)
815-338-2131

Woodstock Fire/Rescue District
(non-emergency)
815-338-2161

McHenry County Emergency
Management Agency
815-338-6400

Commonwealth Edison
800-334-7661

Northern Illinois Gas (NICOR)
888-642-6748

One in a series of brochures in the "Being a Good Neighbor" program designed to inform and educate the residents of Woodstock Illinois.

06/2018

City of
Woodstock

1

Storm Water Flooding & Sanitary Sewer Backup Prevention

Help Yourself Help Your Neighbor

Being a Good Neighbor

Department of Public Works
326 Washington Street
Woodstock, Illinois 60098
(815) 338-6118
pwdept@woodstockil.gov

Sanitary Sewage Backup Prevention

The following suggestions can reduce the frequency or severity of sanitary sewage backups in your house or building connected to the sanitary sewage system.

- Ensure that sump pumps are not connected to sanitary sewage piping (not allowed). Sump pumps should discharge to your lawn or drainage-ways on to your property.
- Check the sanitary sewer service pipe for obstructions. Remove, or have a professional service remove, any obstructions such as tree roots, broken pipes, offset joints, etc.
- Install a standpipe or plug in basement floor drains. These can be installed and left in place and removed as necessary to allow the floor drains to function, or they can be placed in the floor drains when a rainfall or storm is anticipated.
- Install a manually closed valve in the sanitary sewer service pipe exiting your house/building.
- Install an automatic check valve in the sanitary sewer service pipe exiting your house/building.
- Install an individual sewage grinder/pumping station on the existing sanitary sewer service pipe between the house/building and the sanitary sewer.
- Install overhead plumbing in your basement and sewage ejector pump-(s) to serve basement plumbing/piping. (see I/I Program on back page).
- Grade your yard away from the building foundation, and especially away from window wells at basement windows. Do not raise the ground surface above the top of the foundation or above the top of the window wells. Soil/mulch placed against brick or siding can cause rot in wood framing within your walls.
- Install covers on window wells for basement windows. Raise window wells so that top of well is at top of foundation.
- Install sump pumps with battery back-up power or, if already installed, check sump pump discharge piping/hose for flow restrictions. Sump pumps can never be connected to sanitary sewage piping and should discharge to your lawn. Respect your neighbors by not terminating sump pump piping/hose at the property line.
- Seal foundation cracks, or have a professional perform crack/foundation sealing services.

Storm Water Flooding Prevention

The following suggestions can reduce the frequency or severity of storm water flooding of your property and your neighbor's property or the entrance of storm water or groundwater inside your foundation.

- Clear sticks, leaves, grass clippings and other debris from storm sewer inlets in the street and rear yards. Properly dispose of material removed from inlets.
- Clear sticks, leaves, grass clippings and sediment/gravel at the end of driveway and street culverts. Properly dispose of material removed from culverts.
- Never dump, store, or dispose of trash, debris or landscape waste/compost in drainage swales (often located in rear or side yards).
- Never place soil, fill, and landscape materials in rear and side yard drainage swales. Existing fill should be removed and the swale/shallow ditches graded to provide positive drainage.
- Fences and permanent, hard stemmed plantings should not be placed in drainage swales. These improvements should be located at the edge of the drainage swale or edge of the easement.
- Extend roof downspouts to a point where the water will drain away from the building foundation.
- Never dump, store or dispose of trash, debris or landscape waste in storm water detention/retention basins. Material dumped in basins reduces the amount of storm water storage and can clog the outlet pipe-(s) causing the basin to fill and overflow, flooding downstream properties.
- Disconnect footing drains currently connected to the sanitary sewage piping, and install appropriate sump pump-(s), sump pump discharge piping and emergency power for the sump pumps.

Though not a method to reduce backups, pour water in floor drains and rarely used sinks, showers, etc. to maintain water in the trap beneath each plumbing fixture. This will prevent sewer gases from entering your house/building.

I/I PROGRAM

In an effort to encourage and assist property owners in making improvements which will reduce the potential for sanitary sewage backups, the City of Woodstock has implemented an Infiltration and Inflow (I/I) Program. In summary, residences which do not currently have overhead plumbing and a sewage ejector pump may be eligible for reimbursement up to $2,000 for the installation of these improvements. **Residents must apply and be pre-approved for the I/I Program to be eligible for reimbursement. Please contact the Department of Public Works at 815.338.6118 for more information about this program.**