

# Homeowner's Guide to The Domestic Sump Pump

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### Sump & Sewage Pump Manufacturers Association

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Modern sump pumps provide today's homeowner with effective, economical and reliable insurance against occasional and potentially destructive basement and crawl-space flooding.

Automatic sump pumps are extremely useful in year-round and, vacation homes where owners are not always available to handle these emergencies.

Take a few minutes to inventory the household material and equipment in your own basement. The furnace, hot water heater, washing machine, clothes dryer, your home workshop tools, the paneled recreation room, the pool table, the freezer - all could sustain costly damage should your basement become flooded, even by a few inches of water. The loss could run into thousands of dollars if a foot or more of water were to collect on the basement floor.

Throughout the United States, millions of basements are protected against this type of water damage by a small pump called a sump pump. Originally, sump pump use was limited to the New England and middle Atlantic states and the Great Lakes regions, but with the continuing growth of cities, proliferation of highways, overloaded storm drains, and paved parking lots have come basement flooding problems in all but a few areas of the country.

The Sump & Sewage Pump Manufacturers Association (SSPMA) reports that over one million sump pumps are manufactured and sold annually. Many of these pumps are used in new homes, but a substantial number are installed in older homes now experiencing flooding due to the reduced area of soil for water absorption or new construction in the area. Many communities will not allow homes to be constructed without a basement sump pump.

While there are several types of sump pumps manufactured, the majority are powered by a 115-volt AC electric motor. The motor drives a small centrifugal pump and is automatically controlled by a liquid level device, which senses water level and turns the pump on and off at a predetermined fluid level. The sump pump is normally installed in a pit or receiver (sump) below the basement floor and located at the low spot of the basement. The pump discharges the water collected in the sump through a pipe or hose out of the basement to a suitable storm drain or natural drainage area.

Sump pumps are sold by plumbers, plumbing supply houses, hardware stores, home centers, discount stores, and some department stores. Many are installed by a plumber, but an increasing number are being installed by the do-it-yourself homeowner. Whether the homeowner hires the installation done or decides to handle the job himself, he should learn about the pumps, the proper installation and the simple maintenance required.

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## Typical Pedestal Pumps

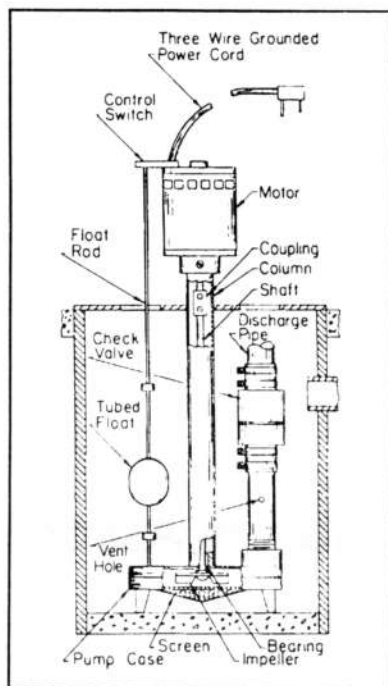


Figure 1

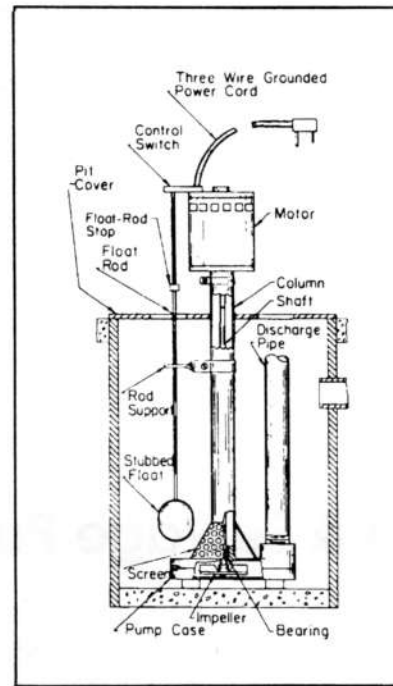


Figure 2