

SUMP PUMPS & DOWNSPOUTS

Just a reminder that sump pumps, downspouts and draining pools into the Sanitary Sewer System is illegal by State Code and City Ordinance.

With the recent heavy rains the City of Rock Falls just wanted to remind everyone that roof downspouts and sump pumps are a major burden to the sewer system. When downspouts and sump pumps are connected to the city sanitary sewer system, their flow is taking up space needed to carry sewage to our treatment plant. These incorrect and illegal connections can cause sewage to back up into your basement or overflow into our rivers and streams. In a neighborhood of 200 homes, it only takes six to eight sump pumps and/or roof downspouts working full time during a rainstorm to cause sanitary sewers to back up into basements, streets and our waterways. Remember it is critical that sump pumps and roof downspouts discharge to the yard not to the sanitary sewer. Pools also should never be drained into the sanitary sewer line.

The City of Rock Falls aim is to gain voluntary compliance. All residents will benefit from keeping rainwater out of the sewers. Reducing the water flow to our treatment plant and collection system will help reduce backups during rain events.

If a homeowner refuses to correct their incorrect/illegal downspout or sump pump connection or to seek assistance in correcting the connection, the City of Rock Falls may use its authority to enforce compliance.

Proper installation of roof drains and sump pump

