



General Sump Pump Maintenance and Cleaning Tips

Disclaimer: The intent of this document is to provide general maintenance and operational guidelines common to most sump pumps. This information is NOT intended to replace the manufacturer's operation/maintenance manual that will be provided by the plumbing contractor with each sump pump at the time of installation.

Sump Pumps-Preventive Maintenance

1. When performing your own maintenance, always follow the manufacturer's recommendations for maintenance.
2. Keep a copy of the sump pump model number in case of pump failure so you can replace the unit quickly. Another option is to have a replacement pump on hand in the case of a pump failure.
3. The sump pump maintenance consists of ensuring that the floats have free movement, removing excessive debris from the bottom of the pit, and checking that the electrical connection has power by dry tripping the floats. If the Homeowner is uncomfortable with performing this maintenance they could consult a professional and have them maintain and clean this device on an annual basis.
4. Before any maintenance is done to the sump pump/pit be sure of the following:
 - a. The sump pump power cord is un-plugged from the outlet.
 - b. Wear protective clothing to avoid direct contact with contaminated water and materials.
5. The typical sump pump is designed to pump water not debris, dirt, sand, concrete chips, etc. Abrasive materials will, in time, pre-maturely wear out the pump. To prevent this from happening, the sump pump should be placed so it rests on bricks or a concrete block. Raising the sump pump off the bottom of the sump pit will help insure that debris will be below the intake ports on the pump.
6. Clean the sump pit of debris using a wet-dry vacuum cleaner as needed.
7. Care must be taken in the placement of the pump to insure that the float mechanism moves freely and does not come into contact with the sides of the pit.
8. Keep the vent hole on the sump pump clean and clear of debris. Most sump pumps have a vent hole to prevent an air lock; this vent must remain unblocked by debris if the pump is to operate correctly. (The location of the vent varies; refer to your owner's manual for its location on your specific model).
9. The sump pump should not be used to pump hot water (over 120 ° Fahrenheit). Doing so will likely void the warranty. It is ideal if you can unplug the sump pump to allow the water to cool before pumping it.
10. The sump pump should never be used to pump flammable materials, chemicals or salty water.
11. During dry periods, the sump pump is not likely to run. If the sump pit becomes dry, the seals in the pump can dry out and crack or leak causing premature pump failure. To prevent this, the pump should be tested once a month by adding enough water to the sump pit to activate the pump.
12. The water that is left in the bottom of the sump pit may become stagnant or develop odor. When water is added to test the sump pump, this will also circulate and remove the stagnant water. The use of chlorine bleach, or other strong chemicals, should be avoided as they can cause damage to the pump components.