

Breckenridge Public Utilities

Sump Pump Policy

The following sump pump policy shall apply to all customers of the Breckenridge Public Utilities.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is requiring that the Breckenridge Public Utilities address inflow and infiltration problems in the sanitary sewer system.

Your sanitary sewer system has a design flow of 500,000 gallons per day. Under normal conditions, the amount of flow is well within design parameters. For example during August/September 1998, flows have been about 230,000 gallons per day. However, during wet conditions (when sump pumps are typically running the most) flows into the sanitary sewer system easily exceed the design limit of 500,000 gallons per day and can often exceed 800,000 gallons per day. When this occurs your sanitary sewer system is not in compliance with its operating permit. Although sump pumps are not the sole contributor to this increase in flow, they are a very significant part of the problem.

Your sanitary sewer system needs your help to control ground water flow. MPCA has indicated that inflow and infiltration problems in the sanitary sewer system must be addressed and corrective action taken.

If ground water flows into the sanitary sewer are not curtailed, MPCA may enforce a compliance schedule to the permit. In this case, the citizens of Breckenridge may be forced to expand the sanitary sewer force main and sewage lagoon capacity. The cost to Breckenridge residents would be enormous, easily exceeding \$2,000,000.

The City of Breckenridge [Ordinance No. 419](#) states "No person shall connect or cause or permit to be connected with any sanitary sewer pipe or drain, or any sanitary sewer system of the City of Breckenridge, rainspouts or roof or eave drains of a building or structure, sump pumps or drain tile, or in any other manner cause surface waters or ground waters to be drained into the sanitary sewer pipes or drains of the sanitary sewer system of the City of Breckenridge.

Policy States:

1. A monthly surcharge of \$25.00 will be incurred by all residents who allow sump pumps, roof drains, drain tile or any other type of connection that allows rain, snow melt, or any other non-sewage water to enter the sanitary sewer system. **Exclusion to this charge would be any homes built prior to September 8, 1998 that have drain tile connected to the sanitary sewer system. These homes will be exempt until such time that any type of major construction/remodeling would occur.

2. Sump pumps must be hard plumbed to the outside. Flexible hose, hose clamps, etc. In building is not acceptable.
3. Two-way valves are not allowed unless there is a method provided for the Utility to physically seal the valve from being switched to the sewer system.
4. Public Utility employees are authorized to do inspections of the sump pumps, etc. to determine if the connections are to the sanitary sewer or to the outside. If a property owner does not allow Utility employees to inspect, the surcharge fee of \$25.00 per month will be immediately applied until the inspection is made and determination that the sump pump, etc. is properly plumbed outside.