

BASEMENT PLUMBING MODIFICATION For Buildings Constructed Prior to May 1, 1975

If you have a gravity service sewer from your basement to the City's sewer, and you have experienced a backup of water in your basement through a floor drain or other fixtures from the City's sewer system during significant rainfall events, and you would like to protect your basement from a potential backup of water from the sewer system, the City has a program to assist you with the cost of modifying your plumbing.

The plumbing modification process involves the disconnection of all drains and fixtures in your basement from your service sewer. This can typically be done by removing a section of your basement floor, near the wall where your service sewer exits the basement. If your existing plumbing stack (soil pipe) is not along your basement wall, your first floor plumbing will have to be plumbed over to the basement wall and connected to the service sewer. In this same area, an excavation is made, a section of your house service is removed and a pit with a grinder pump is installed to take water from your basement floor drains and fixtures. A typical plumbing modification detail drawing is included. If you are not sure how your drains and fixtures are connected to your house service, there are several plumbing contractors in the City who have TV equipment that will be able to identify connections.

The City's plumbing modification reimbursement program will reimburse you up to 15% of the cost of the plumbing modification, excluding the cost of any carpentry work that may be required, up to a maximum amount of \$600.00. An application form is included. Submit the application form to the City Engineer and make an appointment for the City plumbing inspector to come to your building and review your basement plumbing with you. At that time you will be given a list of plumbing contractors, who are bonded with the Springfield Metro Sanitary District, that you can use to select a contractor to complete your work. The selected plumbing contractor must apply for a plumbing permit with the Department of Building and Zoning. The City will not be able to reimburse you if someone other than the contractors on the list complete your work.

Once you have the work completed, contact the Department of Building and Zoning to make an appointment to have the City plumbing inspector come to your building to make a final inspection of the work to see that it was completed satisfactorily. If the work is approved you can then submit your paid invoice to the City for the reimbursement.

The plumbing modification reimbursement program is applicable only for this type of modification. The installation of floor drain plugs or standpipes, or the installation of a backflow preventor are not included in this program.

The City Engineer can be contacted at (217) 789-2260. The Office of Public Works mailing address is: Room 201, Municipal Center West, Springfield, Illinois 62701. The City plumbing inspector can be contacted by calling the Department of Building and Zoning at (217) 789-2171. The mailing address for the Department of Building and Zoning is: Room 304, Municipal Center West, Springfield, Illinois 62701.