



MUNICIPALITY *of the*
COUNTY *of* KINGS

Municipal Advisory

March 29, 2023

Backflow Valves Reduce the Risk of Destructive Sewage Backups and Flooding

Sewage backups and water damage can be costly and destructive. It pays for property owners to have safeguards in place to protect homes and businesses.

- Whenever possible, refrain from storing valuable items in low-lying areas and basements.
- Install a sump pump with backup battery power.
- Install backflow valves for drains, toilets, and other sewer connections in a basement.
- Only flush pee, poo, and toilet paper down the toilet. Anything else can lead to sewer backups and blockages in sewer collection systems.

What is a backflow valve?

A backflow valve is a device that allows flow in one direction, but not in the opposite direction. It can prevent sewage from flowing into a basement by automatically closing if an unanticipated issue causes sewage to accumulate in piping that typically directs wastewater away from a property.

A properly installed backflow valve ensures any potential sewer flooding will stop short of other water outlets in a basement, such as floor drains, showers, toilets, and sinks. The backflow valve should be positioned in a manner that makes it easily accessible for regular maintenance, including the removal of any material that may prevent the valve from operating properly.

Before installing a backflow valve, check with the local municipal government to ensure adherence to applicable building codes and by-laws.

A note on insurance

Sewer backup coverage may not automatically be included in home insurance policies. It may be offered as optional coverage that can be purchased for an additional fee. Property owners are encouraged to contact insurance providers directly to inquire about specific policies.

For more information, check out this information prepared by the Insurance Bureau of Canada:
<http://www.ibc.ca/ns/home/risk-management/mitigation-techniques/backwater-valve>

Phone: 902-678-6141 or 1-888-337-2999
Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm
inquiry@countyofkings.ca

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