

# **Cornwall Blueprint**

## **Flood Risk Reduction Rebate Program**

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

**1. When will the rebate be available?**

The rebate program framework has been approved by Council but a By-law and application structure is needed to formalize this (likely in April-May). Watch for a new Blueprint section of the City website.

**2. How much rebate is available?**

80% of eligible costs to a maximum rebate of \$3,600 (for approved receipts of \$4,500 or more).

**3. What can I get a rebate for?**

There are 4 key upgrades that can be funded:

- downspout disconnection
- backwater valve installation (inside or outside the home)
- foundation drain disconnection (from sanitary sewer)
- lot grading improvements

**4. How do I apply for a rebate?**

The City will have a link on its website under “Blueprint”. Fill out the information on the form and we will contact you.

**5. Can I still apply for a rebate even if I did not experience flooding in 2010 or 2013?**

Yes, but priority will be given to those that experienced flooding or are in flooding clusters. Subject to the number and value of rebate requests, other non-flooded residents may be considered as well.

## 6. What if I did the installation myself?

The City will review the installation and the receipt for the appliance (e.g. backwater valve) installed (but not for labour) and consider the rebate.

The City may suggest other changes (e.g. foundation drain disconnection and sump pump installation).

## 7. What if I installed a backwater valve previously, can I still receive a rebate?

If the backwater valve was installed by a licensed plumber and you have a receipt, then the City will consider your application by visiting and observing the installation. Applications will be considered back to January 1, 2010.

## 8. What if I don't have a receipt?

You should contact the installer to have them provide this.

You can also get a rebate for more flood reduction upgrades such as: downspout disconnection, foundation drain disconnection from sanitary sewer, sump pit and pump installation, and lot grading. These measures will help to alleviate a "self flooding condition".

## 9. What is "self-flooding"?

This is a term used to describe the flooding of a residence that can still occur with a back water valve installed. If the valve closes (because of sanitary sewer surcharge) and if sewage flow is produced in the home (e.g. toilet, shower, laundry, etc.) this water cannot get to the sewer main through the lateral and it may back up through the floor drain. More commonly, if the foundation drains are connected to the sanitary sewer, then the excess water can enter the basement. This is why it is important for the foundation drains to be re-routed to a sump pit and pump to another outlet. (e.g. surface or storm sewer).

**10. Why can't I be eligible for the rebate if my eavestroughs are not disconnected from the foundation drain and sanitary sewer?**

The sanitary sewers are not designed to handle all this rain water and this worsens the flooding situation (for everyone) plus it is contrary to existing municipal By-Laws. Disconnecting eavestroughs and plugging the underground connection for most applications is fairly routine.

**11. How do I know if my eavestroughs and foundation drain are connected to the sanitary sewer lateral?**

During the City's visit, staff will review the connections. If you have a foundation drain and no sump pump or storm sewer connection, then the foundation drain is connected to the sanitary sewer lateral. To confirm the eavestrough connection to the sanitary sewer, dye testing can be undertaken. In some instances the City may recommend that a camera sewer inspection be completed to confirm connections.

**12. How do I know if I have a "foundation drain" around my home?**

If your home was built in the 1950s or after, you very likely have a foundation drain. Other investigative techniques can be used to determine this.

**13. What if during the investigation, I find that my sewer lateral needs repair/replacement?**

This is an excellent opportunity to have the lateral fixed and possibly install an exterior backwater valve when there is an open trench. The City will cover the cost of the lateral work on the municipal right-of-way to your property line through a separate funding program once the source of the problem and location are confirmed.

**14. What if I am a tenant in a rental unit (owned by another person)?**

The rebate application must be made by the property owner. Tenants are encouraged to dialogue with the landlord about their desire for plumbing upgrades.

**15. I had a backwater valve installed previously and my residence still flooded. Why is this?**

A backwater valve, if properly installed, is only one line of defense against flooding. Proper installation and regular maintenance (per the manufacturer's instructions) is also required. As part of the City staff's site visit, we will review the installation and provide comments about installation problems, possible maintenance issues, etc. The manufacturer has indicated that a backwater valve installed without proper slope is a major factor for failure.

It should also be noted that there may be a need for other plumbing upgrades (e.g. foundation drain disconnection from sanitary sewer, sump pump installation, etc.) to reduce flooding risk.

This was the "self-flooding" condition noted previously.

**16. I live in the Grand-Miron area where new sewers will be installed. Do I need to make any sewer changes?**

Absolutely, you should still participate in the program and take advantage of the rebate to help flood protect your home. To reduce foundation drain inflow, it is also necessary that the foundation drain be disconnected from the sanitary sewer and re-routed via the sump pump to the surface or to the storm sewers.

**17. Why is the rebate limited to 80% to an upset limit?**

The City has reviewed the rebate programs of other municipalities and researched the installation costs. These rebates are fair and allow many affected home-owners to participate. The City currently has budgeted up to \$1.5M over 3 years for this rebate program to assist as many homeowners as possible.

**18. Does the City have a list of contractors?**

Yes, we will provide a list of contractors. The City will ask prospective contractors to register with the City. The City will not endorse these contractors, nor will the City tender this work.

**19. Do I need a permit to do this work?**

Yes. City staff will review permitting requirements as part of our initial site visit.

**20. During the investigation, it was found that my sewer lateral is the “no-corrode” (Bituminous fibre) material. Do I have to replace it at the time of the rebate?**

It is strongly recommended to replace all laterals of no-corrode material. The City’s Sewer Construction By-Law states that all no-corrode should be removed. At the time of the rebate, if no corrode is found, City staff will recommend its replacement. If left, it increases the risk of flooding risk in the future.

**21. As a homeowner I own my sewer lateral in its entirety from my home to the sewer main. Would I get reimbursed for any video I complete for the lateral?**

In the Sewer Lateral Policy published by the City of Cornwall, all work pertaining to the lateral will be paid by the home owners. However, if a video is being completed to determine the configuration of the plumbing in order to complete the Flood Reduction Rebate, the cost of the CCTV video can be included in the receipt package in order to receive the rebate, and may be reimbursed with funds given.

**20. I just installed a sump pump, am I eligible for a rebate?**

In order to meet all qualifications of the rebate, the sump pump must be in accordance with the Building Code Act and the Sewer Construction By-Law. As well, the sump pump and pit installation must be in conjunction with weeping tile disconnection. Once all steps have been completed, the work is eligible for the Flood Reduction Rebate.

**21. How long can I expect to wait to receive my rebate?**

Once you have completed the work and submitted a rebate form, you should receive the rebate within 4-6 weeks.

**22. Should I be including a battery back-up in my plumbing devices?**

Although not required, it is a good idea to have a battery back-up included with install. This is just another measure taken to prevent flooding from occurring in your home.

**23. What is included in the eligible costs?**

The eligible costs will cover any of the work pertaining to the item for the rebate. This includes the labour and the material for the appliance installed (e.g. backwater valve, sump pump). The labour can be reimbursed if a qualified contractor/plumber completed the work.

Permit fees will be reimbursed at 100% of actual cost. Any right-of-way damage deposits will be required. If the work was completed by the homeowner, eligible costs will not include the labour of the install.