

Village Cautions Residents with Floor Drains

By Rodd Hale, Village Administrator

Many residents, especially those in older homes, may have floor drains at the basement floor level.

Quite often floor drains are connected to sanitary sewer lines instead of storm water lines. Storm water lines are created with the sole intention of moving rain water away from properties and into local waterways. The EPA has become much more stringent regarding the mixing of storm water with sanitary sewage. The Village of Versailles has been instructed by the EPA to eliminate storm water being mixed with sanitary sewage. Floor drains connected to the Village's sanitary sewage system are no longer permissible. Residents should understand the consequences and possible expenses associated with having uncapped floor drains.

Uncapped floor drains have become an issue in most municipalities and all are working to decrease what's known as "I & I" or *inflow and infiltration*. This simply is a term for storm water entering into sanitary sewer lines in many areas throughout the Village. This becomes a big issue for the Village because storm water going into our sanitary waste system increases costs for the Village and residents by creating more sewage to collect and treat. The elimination of storm water entering the sanitary sewer lines will help decrease village sewage treatment expense.

In addition to floor drains, residents often have downspouts and or sump pumps connected to sanitary sewer lines. These are also not permitted and when found residents will be instructed to direct their storm water runoff to the storm water lines only.

Floor drains can become a major problem for residents when a village sewer main becomes blocked causing sewage to back up into the service line and ultimately up through the resident's unauthorized basement floor drain. This can be an expensive cleanup for the resident. It is very important to understand the Village is not liable for damage or expenses resulting from sewage backup within a residence. All floor drains should be capped or connected to the storm water system only.

Additionally, it would be wise to verify your homeowner's insurance policy to see if coverage for any basement flooding or sewage backup is provided. The Village is not responsible for any expenses resulting from the cleanup. Village Ordinance 08-21 Section (d) provides clear language regarding this issue. *The Village shall not be liable for a deficiency or failure, regardless of cause (except as a result of a willful misconduct) in the supply of water or collection of sewer, nor for any damage caused thereby, including, but not limited to, any basement or below grade flooding, or by the bursting or breaking of any Distribution/Collection Main or Service Line or any attachment to the Distribution/Collection Mains and Service Lines or other facilities used by the Village.* If you have any questions please contact the Village offices at 526-3294.