

In the Plans

News from Orderline

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Basement Flooding Across Canada

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“A doctor can bury his mistakes, but an architect can only advise his clients to plant vines.”

— Frank Lloyd Wright

Inside:

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On-Site Sewage Systems
By Ahmed Sharaf, P.Eng.
New CSA Standards

In the Press

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In the News

Basement Flooding across Canada



June and July saw extreme weather and the resultant basement flooding in the news across Canada. While some of this flooding was from municipal sewer systems overloading, many types of basement flooding in the home can be avoided and prevented.

Causes

Heavy rainfall can cause basement flooding through a crack in your basement walls, weeping tile failure due to poor rain water management, or lot drainage. In addition, municipal sewer systems can be overwhelmed resulting in backup through home wastewater outlets.

Preventative Measures

Eavestroughs and Downspouts

Rainwater rolls off your roof into eavestroughs and is discharged away from your home's foundation through the downspouts. Ensure your downspouts extend at least 2 m from your basement wall to prevent water from pooling in the weeping tile. Eavestroughs should be clean of debris (leaves, twigs, etc.) to prevent overflow that could also gather at your home's foundation.

Note: Toronto bylaw now states that downspouts must be disconnected from the sewer system.

www1.toronto.ca

Lot Grading and Drainage

Build up the grade or ground around your house for at least 2 m out from the basement walls so that water drains away from your foundation. Otherwise, excess rainwater at the weeping tile around the basement walls can overload the foundation and cause leakage.

Rainwater and Sewage Backup

When sanitary and storm sewer pipes overload due to excess rainwater, basement flooding may result if floor drains in the home are below the overload level. You can prevent rainwater and sewage from backing up into your basement due to home drainage system overloads by installing sump pumps or back flow valves. These installations can be complicated and may require a building or plumbing permit. Check with your municipal office or a qualified plumber.

Sump Pit Drainage System: Water from the weeping tiles around your basement collects in the sump pit set into the basement floor and is ejected from the house by the sump pump through the discharge pipe.

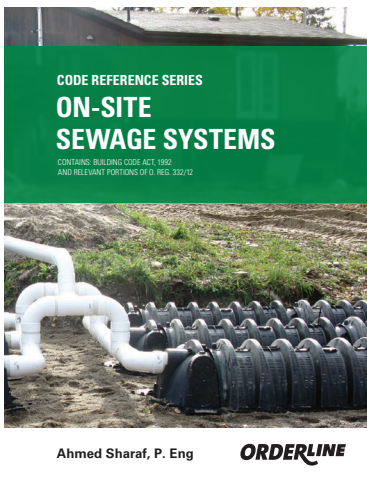
Backwater Valve: A backwater valve automatically closes if sewage backs up from an overloaded main sewer line and prevents entry into your basement. The backwater valve must be properly installed so that sewage backup will not come out through sinks, toilets, showers or laundry tubs in your basement.

Insurance

No system is guaranteed. Verify that your policy covers sewer back-up and/or water damage and keep a detailed inventory of your home on paper and online.

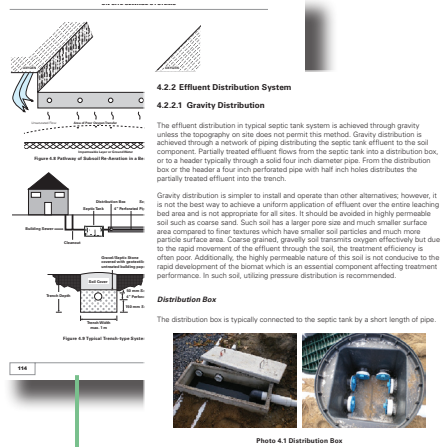
Did you Know?

While Toronto's July 8th 126 mm rainfall was slightly more than Hurricane Hazel's 121 mm in 1954, neither matches Ontario's record-setting day in 1991 when Harrow saw 182 mm. And none come close to the Canadian record of 489 mm on a soggy October 6, 1967 in Ucluelet, British Columbia.



On-Site Sewage Systems

Code Reference Series
Ahmed Sharaf, P.Eng



“The most valuable information for designing an on-site system is gathered through testing the soil and drainage conditions on the lot itself...”

... The purpose of determining the soil profiles and patterns is to identify the soil characteristics that affect installation of a subsurface soil absorption system. Soil surveys may provide good information to start the evaluation process; however ... ”
Page 27; 2.2.2 Soil Profile and Patterns

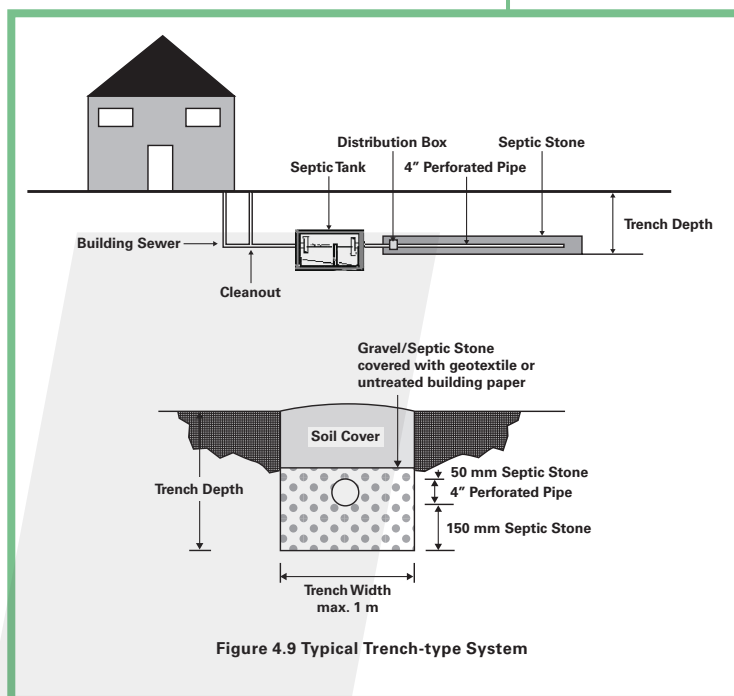
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Test Yourself

“Colour is an indicator of natural drainage conditions that existed during soil formation. It reflects the amount of minerals and the amount of organic matter that may be present in the soil.”

Which minerals likely match the following soil colours?

- Manganese oxide
- Calcium carbonate
- Iron and sulphur
- Oxidized iron



Page 26; 2.2.3 Soil Characteristics

Answers: a3, b4, c2, d1

New CSA Standards

[C802.2-12](#) Minimum efficiency values for dry-type transformers

[Z460-13](#) Control of hazardous energy - Lockout and other methods



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Ontario Fire Code 2007
as amended by O. Reg. 150/13

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