Sump Pump and Ontario Building Code Checklist

DGI Waterproofing - Homeowner Guide 2026

Is a pump required for my situation

1. **Check your drainage outlet**

   No gravity path to an approved outlet usually means a pump is required.

2. **Check your city's sewer rules**

   If weeping tile cannot connect to the sewer, a sump replaces that path.

3. **Renovating or lowering the basement**

   New work must meet current code, which usually means a pump.

4. **Assess your water table**

   High water table or ravine lot: a pump is strongly recommended even if not required.

Confirm before you build

1. **Call your municipal building department**

   Confirm drainage and permit requirements for your exact address.

2. **Ask about a backwater valve**

   Many cities require or subsidize one alongside the sump.

3. **Size the pit and pump correctly**

   Match the pump to your water volume and set the pit at the low point.

4. **Plan the discharge line**

   Carry water well away from the foundation to an approved outlet.

5. **Add a backup where risk is high**

   A battery or water backup keeps the pump running during storm outages.

Questions? Visit dgiwaterproofing.ca to get in touch.

This article is for general guidance only. Waterproofing and drainage requirements vary by property, soil, and local code. DGI Waterproofing is not liable for outcomes from actions taken based on this content. Always confirm with a licensed professional and your municipality for your specific situation.