

TIPS TO MINIMIZE RISK OF FLOODING AT YOUR HOME

With heavy rains coupled with unseasonably warm temperatures and large piles of melting snow, Mid-Michigan is facing significant risk for flooding in many areas.

According to the Eaton County Drain Commission, the combination of heavy rain and melting snow poses a significant challenge because frozen or thawing ground is unable to absorb the water. This results in runoff that flows directly into sewers and county drains.

Wagner points out that when heavy rains and melting snow events happen, county drains can become overwhelmed and are unable to carry water awayfast enough.

Eaton County Drain Commissioner Richard Wagner offers the following tips to help prevent basement backups:

- Reduce water usage while it's raining by taking shorter showers and delay use of your dishwasher or washing machine.
- Disconnect downspouts and install a rain barrel to capture rainwater so that it does not flow directly along side your home/basement walls.
- Do not flush personal care products. This can clog pipes and cause blockages in water systems.

"Sewers and county drains need space during times of heavy rains and melting snow to carry water away." Wagner said. "These simple steps can help make space available in local sewers and county drains so water travels to our system instead of in your basement."

The Eaton County Drain Commission also suggests the following steps to help minimizing flooding during heavy rainfall and melting snow:

- Check/test your sump pump to make sure it is working properly.
- Make sure your gutters are clear.
- Make sure storm drains are clear.
- Keep areas around streams free of debris that may block flow.

Eaton County residents who observe flooding are asked to report it to the Drain Commissioners Office by calling (517) 543-3809.

Eaton County Drain Commission

1045 Independence Blvd.

Charlotte, MI 48813

(517) 543-3809

Hours: Monday thru Friday

8:00 -12:00 & 1:00 to 5:00