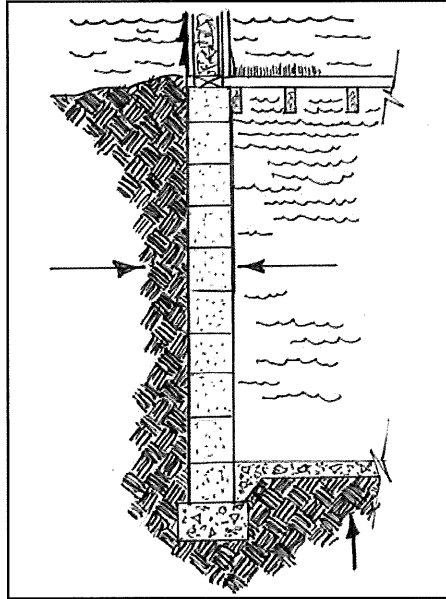


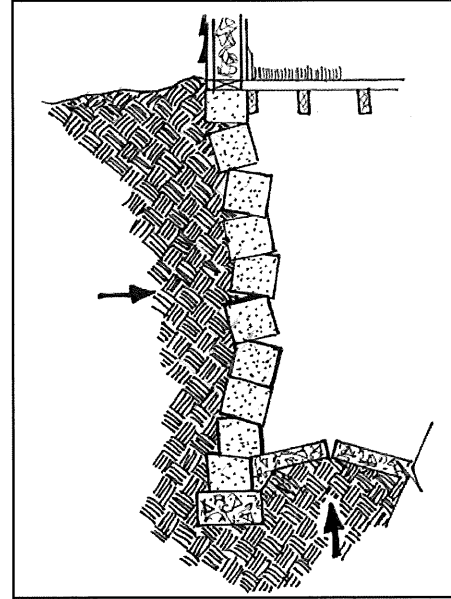
Pumping Out a Flooded Basement

If Your Basement Is Flooded, Don't Rush to Pump It Out

Water in the ground outside your house is pushing hard against the outside of your basement walls; and the water inside your basement is pushing right back. If you drain your basement faster than the water outside drains out of the ground, the outside pressure will be greater than the inside pressure. This unequal pressure may cause the floor to crack then buckle and the wall to crack and possibly collapse.



Water in the basement equalizes pressure from water outside.



Without water in the basement, pressure from groundwater can cause the floor to crack and the walls to collapse.

How to Safely Pump Water Out of Your Basement

- ◆ Never go into a flooded basement unless you are sure the electricity is off.
- ◆ Start pumping the water out of the basement when floodwaters no longer cover the ground.
- ◆ Gasoline engines create deadly carbon monoxide exhaust fumes. Don't use gasoline-powered pumps or generators indoors.
- ◆ Pump the water level down 2 to 3 feet. Mark the level, and wait overnight.
- ◆ Check the water level the next day. If the water level went back up over your mark, it is still too early to drain your basement. Wait 24 hours, then pump the water down 2 to 3 feet again. Mark the level and check it the next day.
- ◆ When the water stops rising, pump down another 2 to 3 feet and wait overnight. Repeat steps 4 and 5 until all water is pumped out of the basement.

What to Do After Draining Your Basement

- ◆ Disinfect the floors and walls to remove bacteria left from the floodwaters.
- ◆ Before turning the power back on, check any electrical service that may have been damaged. Replace any wiring, switches, outlets that were wet during the flood.
- ◆ Remove heating and air conditioning vents or registers as soon as possible and hose out the ductwork. Flooded ducts contain mud and bacteria.
- ◆ Check your water system for loose pipes and leaks.
- ◆ Check your water supply to be certain it is not contaminated.
- ◆ Check all other utilities and drains for damage from the floodwaters.