



# Wethersfield Volunteer Fire Department

Serving our Community Since 1803



A Public Safety Message from the WVFD

## Basement Flooding Prevention Tips

### PROTECT YOUR BASEMENT FROM FLOODING

Stop heavy rainfall, melting snow and runoff  
from ending up in your basement.



Fix foundation  
cracks



Ensure ground slopes  
away from house



Clear debris  
from eavestroughs



Install a  
sump pump



Install a  
backwater valve



Divert your  
downspouts

### Tips for Keeping Your Basement Dry

With the potential of heavy rain approaching, the WVFD would like to remind everyone of these tips for keeping your basement dry.

1. Clean the debris from your gutters and downspouts, and replace them if they are damaged.
2. Check that your downspouts extend at least six feet from your basement wall, and make sure they are not connected to your foundation footing drain system or to underground dry wells.
3. Inspect the exterior foundation and your basement's walls and floors. To fill small cracks, use epoxy in the foundation and masonry sealer indoors. For major fixes, call in a professional contractor.
4. Examine your yard during a heavy rainstorm. Watch to see if water pools next to your home. If so, seek the advice of a landscaper or excavation contractor on ways to direct water away.
5. Also in the yard, see that shade trees with aggressive roots, such as silver maples, are planted at least 20 feet from your house to protect your foundation. Smaller species, like white fir, require only 10 to 15 feet of clearance.
6. If you have a sump pump check it to be sure that it's working properly
7. If you don't have a sump pump and have had water in your basement in the past, consider getting one and have it properly installed.
8. Make sure its well is free of debris, and remember if the power goes out your sump pump may not work.



**Remember - Fire Safety Starts with YOU!**