



Basement Flooding Prevention Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Basement Flooding Grant Program?

The Basement Flooding Prevention Grant Program enables residents to apply for the installation of an approved backwater valve, new sump pit and pump with a battery back-up, internal drainage systems, as well as services like disconnecting, capping, and redirecting downspouts.

2. When does the grant program become available to me?

The program will take effect on January 13, 2025 for all homeowners in the City of Brantford.

3. Am I eligible to apply for the Basement Flooding Prevention Grant Program?

You are eligible to apply for a grant if the following criteria are met:

- Work cannot begin until submitted works are approved by the City;
- Your house cannot be under a new construction warranty;
- Applicant **must** be the owner(s) of a residential property and live in the home;
- Applicant **must** have current and paid property taxes at the time of application;
- The property must not have exceeded the lifetime maximum subsidy amount for each eligible installation; and
- The downspouts from the property's eavestrough must be disconnected from the City's sewer system.

4. What kind of preventative flooding works are considered eligible under this program and how much am I entitled to receive?

The grant amount will be equal to 80% of the cost of each individual eligible works submitted in accordance with the grant payment schedule to an overall maximum grant amount of \$5,000 Canadian Dollars.

a. **Basement flooding risk assessment**

Applicant can receive up to \$300 to help pay for a professional evaluation of potential water entry points into your home and for receiving recommendations to reduce the risk of basement flooding.

- **Must** include:
 - One quote of estimated works;
 - A copy of the report findings listing actions to reduce risk of basement flooding; and
 - any CCTV video evidence.
- Applicant can apply with or before applying for other eligible works.
- b. **Disconnection of downspouts with capping of sanitary or storm system access**

Applicant can receive 80% of the total final invoiced cost up to \$500 towards the mandatory disconnection of downspouts from the sanitary and/or storm systems and discharge to a permeable area.

- Prior to beginning the work applicant **must**:
 - Provide pictures showing the downspout's condition before starting any work with the application
 - Provide a sketch of the proposed work.
- After disconnecting applicant **must** provide pictures showing:
 - all downspouts are disconnected;
 - the completed work including the capping of former discharge entry locations;
 - all discharging water run-off is directed away from your home to a permeable area to prevent flooding, erosion and other nuisance to neighbouring properties.

DOWNSPOUTS ALREADY DISCONNECTED?

- If downspouts are already disconnected, applicant **must**:
 - Provide pictures showing all downspouts are disconnected and are discharging water run-off away from your home to a permeable area to prevent flooding, erosion and other nuisance to neighbouring properties.

Disconnection is a requirement to be eligible for any grants from this program. Please see the **Property Standards By-law** (465.22.4) for more information about downspouts.

c. **Installation of a backwater valve**

Installation of **INTERNAL** Backwater Valve

Applicant can receive 80% of the total final invoiced cost up to \$3,000 towards installing a backwater valve inside the home.

- A **plumbing permit** is required for the remedial works.
 - Click the link to the **plumbing permit from the Building Department;**
 - It can take up 10 days to receive a response from the Building department;
 - Contact the Building department to set up an inspection date via building@brantford.ca.

- 3 sets of PICTURES **must** be provided:
 - Before showing area for work to be completed;
 - During with picture of connected backwater valve;
 - After with picture of finished work including a picture of cleanout pipe and access to backwater valve.

- Applicant can install backwater valve on the storm sewer and/or sanitary sewer.

All installations must be in accordance with Ontario Building Code, Division B, section 7.4.6.4.

Please note that utility locates are the responsibility of the homeowner. A contractor is responsible after they receive the homeowner's authorization. Any preventative works that have been completed without an inspection and approval will result in cancellation of any approved grant amounts.

Installation of **EXTERNAL** Backwater Valve (as per Council amendment approved October 29, 2024)

Applicant can receive 80% of the total final invoiced cost up to \$5,000 towards installing a backwater valve outside the home.

- A **plumbing permit** is required for the remedial works.
 - Click the link to the **plumbing permit from the Building Department;**
 - A fee of \$105 is required for the plumbing permit
 - It can take up 10 days to receive a response from the Building department;
 - Contact the Building department to set up an inspection date via building@brantford.ca.

- 3 sets of PICTURES must be provided

- Before showing area for work to be completed;
 - During with picture of connected backwater valve;
 - After with picture of finished work.
- Applicant can install backwater valve on the storm sewer and/or sanitary sewer.

All installations must be within the private property in accordance with Ontario Building Code, Division B, section 7.4.6.4.

Please note that utility locates are the responsibility of the homeowner. A contractor is responsible after they receive the homeowner's authorization. Any preventative works that have been completed without an inspection and approval will result in cancellation of any approved grant amounts.

d. Installation of New Sump Pit and Pump with battery back-up and connecting to existing weeping tile or new Internal Drainage System

Applicant can receive 80% of the total final invoiced cost up to \$4,000 to help offset the cost of installing a new sump pit and pump with battery back-up and connecting to the existing weeping tile or new internal drainage system.

- A sump pit and sump pump must be installed to collect water from the internal or external weeping tiles and discharged to a permeable outside surface.
- The weeping tiles **must** also be disconnected from the storm and/or sanitary system.
- 3 sets of PICTURES must be provided
 - Before with picture showing area for work to be completed
 - During with picture of inside the sump pit showing the sump pump and pit installed and connection to weeping tile.
 - After with picture of finished work showing discharge pipe to permeable surface.

The grant program does not cover maintenance, repair, or replacement of existing sump pits and pumps. Only new installations are eligible for consideration under the program.

5. Can I apply for costs to replace or repair any of my current preventative flooding equipment or for costs towards maintenance work to prevent flooding, e.g. cracked foundation, leaking window wells or plugged foundation drains?

Direct replacements or repairs to your existing system or devices are not eligible under this program as these are considered to be of the responsibility of the homeowner to upkeep or maintenance existing devices on your property.

6. Is there a charge for the building permit?

Yes, there is a charge of \$105 for the permit.

7. How can I learn more about this grant program?

Please visit Brantford.ca/FloodingGrants for program information and details or reach out to Customer service at 519-759-4150 ext. 5429.

8. Who can I contact for advice on preventing future flooding in my basement and to get quotes?

You can call a plumbing contractor or sewer drain layer who is licensed by the City of Brantford. Homeowners are strongly encouraged to obtain three or more quotes and conduct due diligence before hiring a City of Brantford licensed contractor by obtaining references and asking questions throughout the quotation process.

You may also wish to have a flooding risk assessment performed. This is an expense that is eligible under the current grant program for reimbursement. Applicants can pay for a professional evaluation of potential sources of water entry into the home and causes of flooding. This can be done by a third-party consultant with residential flooding expertise or a contractor who conducts an in-depth investigation of plumbing connections using CCTV, dye testing and/or smoke testing techniques or other means to support their analysis. Depending upon the information you already have, it should be noted that only professionals with comprehensive knowledge of flooding mechanisms may be able to identify flooding causes so it may be prudent to start with a flooding expert.

9. Is there any concern about the grant program expiring before I am able to take advantage of it?

Grant approvals

are subject to funding availability on a first-come first-served basis. Approved grants are only valid for and will expire if:

- Work is not completed within 6 months ***six months*** upon receiving the fully signed commitment letter;
- The City did not receive confirmation of payment for work completed;
- Inspection or verification of eligible works is not satisfactory;
- Other forms are incomplete (e.g. unsigned Commitment Letter)

10. I have already installed a backwater valve and/or sump pump to prevent future flooding. Can I submit these expenses under this grant program?

Work must be approved before any work can start to be eligible for the grant.

11. I have already received subsidy for a backwater valve but would like to install more redial works as part of the program. Am I allowed to apply again?

The homeowner can apply for additional subsidy for the property as long as you have not have exceeded the lifetime maximum subsidy amount for each eligible installation to a maximum of \$5000 per household.