

Pumping Out Basements

There are a few very important things to consider before pumping out your flooded basement!

Failure to consider them upfront may cost you time and \$\$\$ in the long run!

Is there an oily sheen on the surface of the water to be pumped?

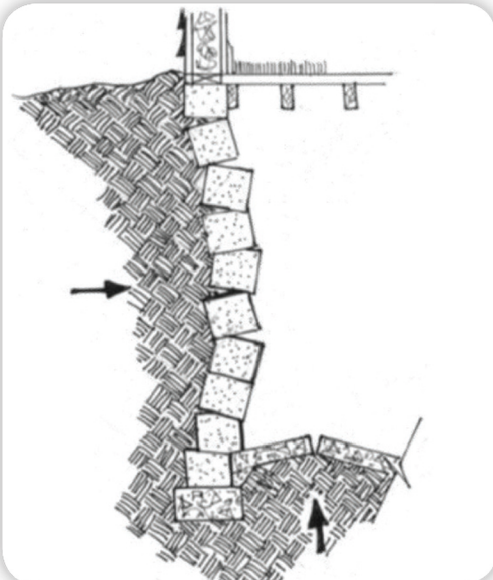
Is the area around your basement still flooded or saturated?

When oil or petroleum is present floating on the water in a basement or container, report the situation to DEC at 800-641-5005 (24/7) or 802-828-1138 (during the workday).

If oil is present, pumping liquid from below the surface will likely cause oil to coat everything in the basement making for a more significant and costly cleanup.

DEC can help direct contractors to assist with the pump-out. If contractors are not available to recover the floating oil, DEC will work with you to provide guidance on how to pump the water from the top down to assure the oil is removed first.

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Step 1: Start pumping when flood waters no longer cover the ground outside

Step 2: Pump out 1 foot of water. Mark the water level and wait overnight

Step 3: Check the mark, if the water rose, it is too early to pump out

Step 4: Wait 24 hours, then repeat the process

Step 5: When the water stops returning to your mark, pump out 2 to 3 feet of the remaining water

Step 6: Repeat daily until all the water is out of the basement

Safety Tip: If you notice any new pronounced cracking or any buckling, stop draining immediately as the water outside the basement has not drained and is causing excessive pressure on the structure.

For more info see - <https://mutualaidasterrelief.org/safety-diy-cleanup/>