

Homeowner's Guide

Eligibility Requirements for Halton Region's Basement Flooding Prevention Subsidy Program

Halton REGION

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About the Guide

This guide is intended to provide general information to help homeowners understand Halton Region's Basement Flooding Prevention Subsidy Program. It outlines eligible types of work, key considerations when hiring a contractor, and the process for applying for funding.

This guide is for informational purposes only and does not constitute technical, legal, or professional advice. While Halton Region has made reasonable efforts to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this guide at the time of publication, the Region makes no representations or warranties, express or implied, regarding its completeness, accuracy, or applicability to any specific property or project.

Homeowners remain fully responsible for all decisions related to their property, including selecting contractors, defining project scope, managing contracts and payments, and ensuring compliance with all applicable laws, codes, bylaws, permits, and inspections.

Halton Region assumes no liability for any loss, damage, injury, or claim arising from or related to work undertaken by a homeowner or contractor, whether or not such work is referenced or described in this guide.



Halton Region's Basement Flooding Prevention Subsidy Program

Halton Region's Basement Flooding Prevention Subsidy Program ("the Subsidy Program") offers financial support to help homeowners complete eligible plumbing and drainage improvements that reduce the risk of basement flooding. These improvements also help limit the amount of groundwater and stormwater that enters the Region's wastewater system.

Eligible improvements under the Subsidy Program include weeping tile disconnections with sump pump installation, exterior storm drain disconnections, downspout disconnections, and wastewater lateral repairs, replacement, or lining. The program also subsidizes backwater valve installations to help reduce the risk of wastewater backups.

Halton Region provides guidance and administers the Subsidy Program by setting eligibility requirements, reviewing applications and supporting documentation, confirming that completed work meets program criteria, and issuing subsidy payments once all conditions are met.

Halton Region does not recommend or select contractors, supervise or direct the work, assess the quality of workmanship, or participate in or resolve disputes between homeowners and contractors.

Homeowners are responsible for arranging for subsidy eligible work to be completed by qualified, appropriately licensed individuals, and for helping ensure the work meets program requirements to remain eligible for available subsidies.

Contractors may support by assessing the home's drainage system, recommending appropriate flood prevention measures, completing any subsidy-eligible work in accordance with applicable codes and standards, and providing documentation to support an application.

Your local municipality issues permits and conducts inspections, where applicable.

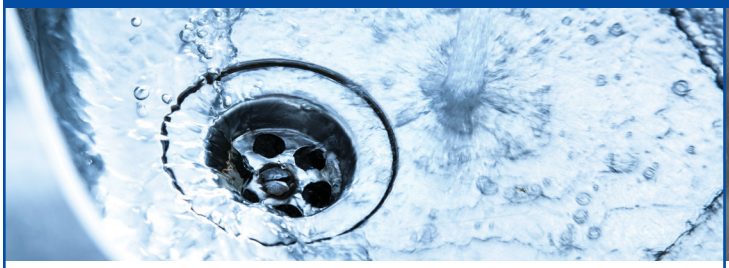


Learn How Your Home's Drainage System Works

Understanding the home's drainage system is particularly helpful when:

- Buying or renovating a home, particularly when finishing a basement or converting it into living space
- The home has a history of basement or property flooding
- You are considering upgrades to help reduce the risk of flooding

Most homes today are designed with separate systems to manage different types of water:



The **wastewater system** handles water from inside your home (e.g. sinks, toilets, showers and bathtubs, laundry machines and dishwashers).



The **stormwater/groundwater system** handles rainwater and water outside of the home (e.g. weeping tiles, sump pumps, downspouts).

Many homes built from the **mid-1950's to late 1970's** were originally constructed with weeping tiles and/or downspouts connected directly to the wastewater system. At the time, these connections **were often permitted under applicable legislation and regulations**.

However, these connections can allow large volumes of excess stormwater into the wastewater system, which is not designed to handle it. If parts of your home's private storm drainage is connected to the wastewater system, this can contribute to:

- Basement flooding caused by wastewater system surcharging during wet weather
- Increased pressure on wastewater treatments plants

Correcting these older drainage connections helps reduce the risk of basement flooding and lessens the strain on the overall wastewater system.



Figure 1: Examples of stormwater connections commonly found in older homes.

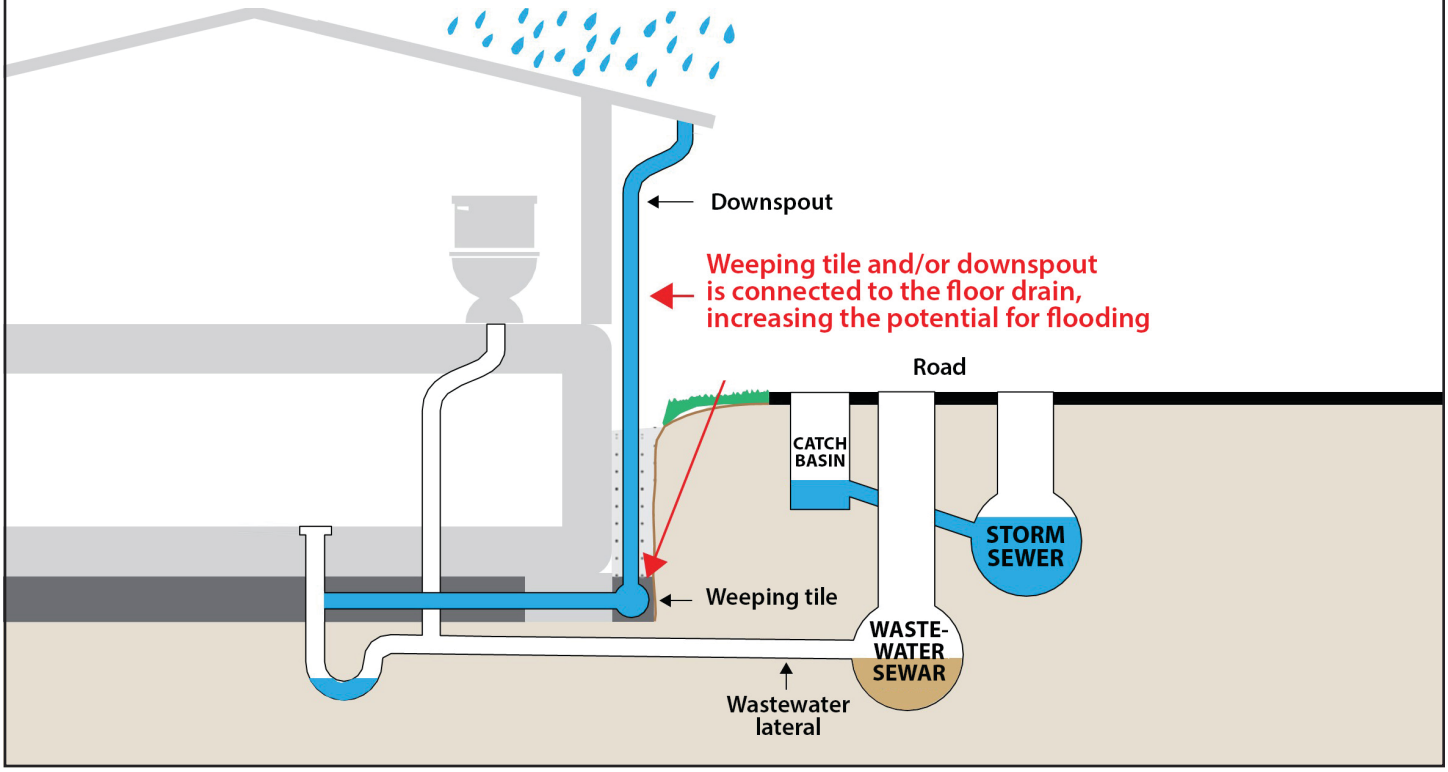
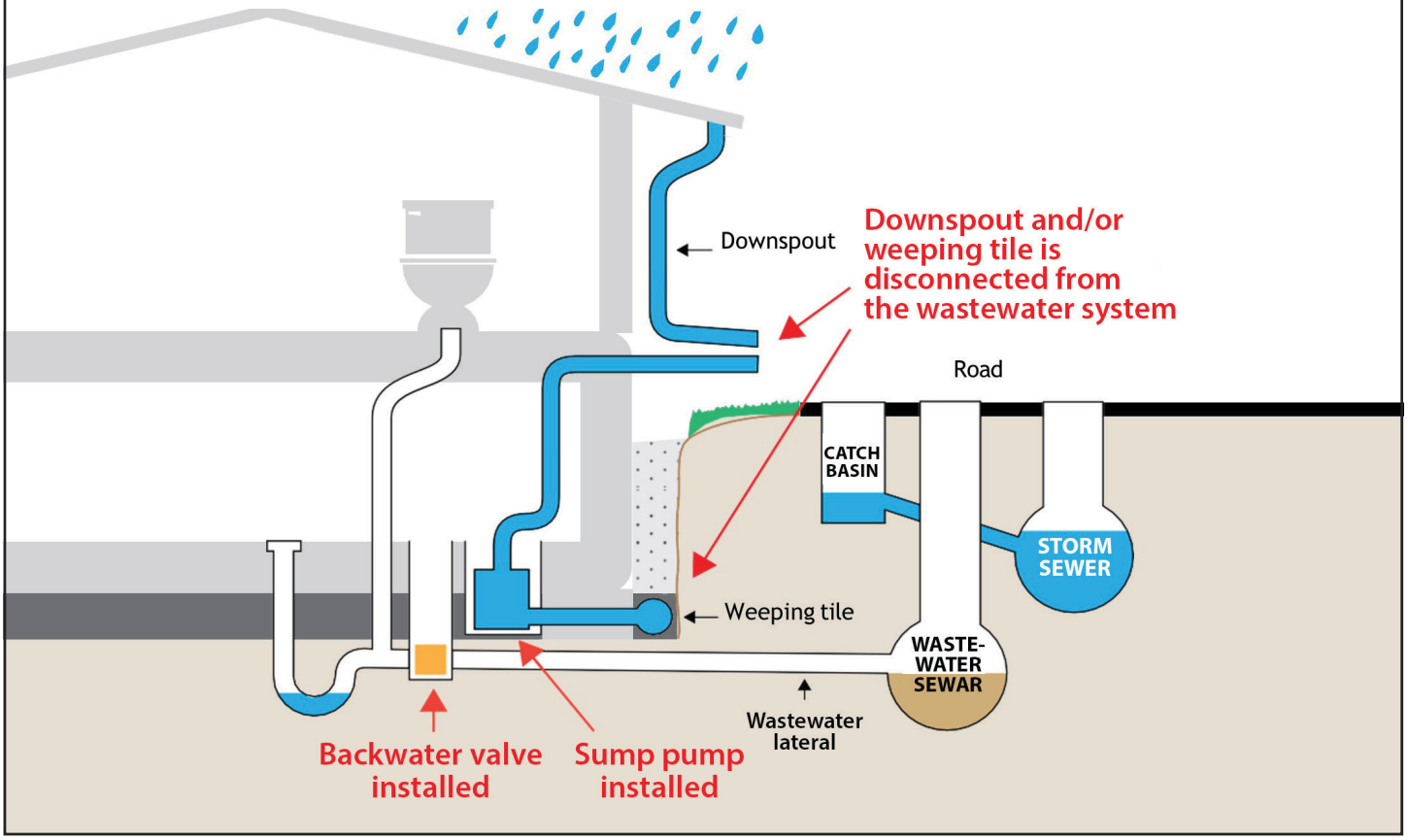


Figure 2: How disconnecting these connections and installing basement flooding prevention devices can reduce basement flooding risk.



Key Parts of Your Home's Drainage System

Understanding the components of your home's drainage system can help you identify potential risks. Below is an overview of the main features found in most homes.

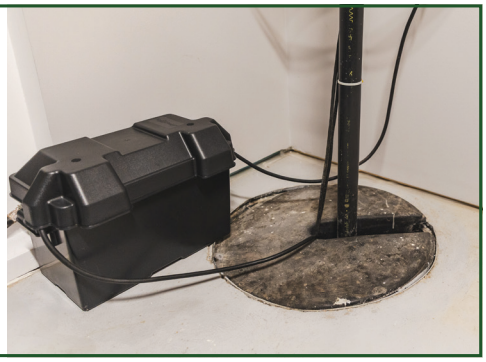
Weeping Tiles

- Perforated pipes installed around the base of your foundation to collect groundwater and direct it away from your home. Also referred to as foundation drains.
- In many older homes, these drains were connected to the home's plumbing system and directly into the Region's wastewater lateral, which increases the risk of wastewater system surcharge during wet weather and lead to basement flooding.



Sump Pump

- A pump that is installed in a sump pit to remove water collected by weeping tiles.
- When installed correctly, a sump pump discharges water safely away from your home's foundation, typically to the ground surface or into a stormwater system.



Downspouts

- Pipes that carry rainwater from your roof (via eavestroughs) to the ground surface.
- In some older homes, downspouts may be connected directly to the wastewater lateral, which increases the amount of water entering the wastewater system, raising the risk of wastewater system surcharge during wet weather and basement flooding.



Backwater Valves

- A device that is installed on your private wastewater lateral to help prevent wastewater from backing up into your home.
- It is very important that this is installed correctly and regularly maintained for the valve to work effectively.



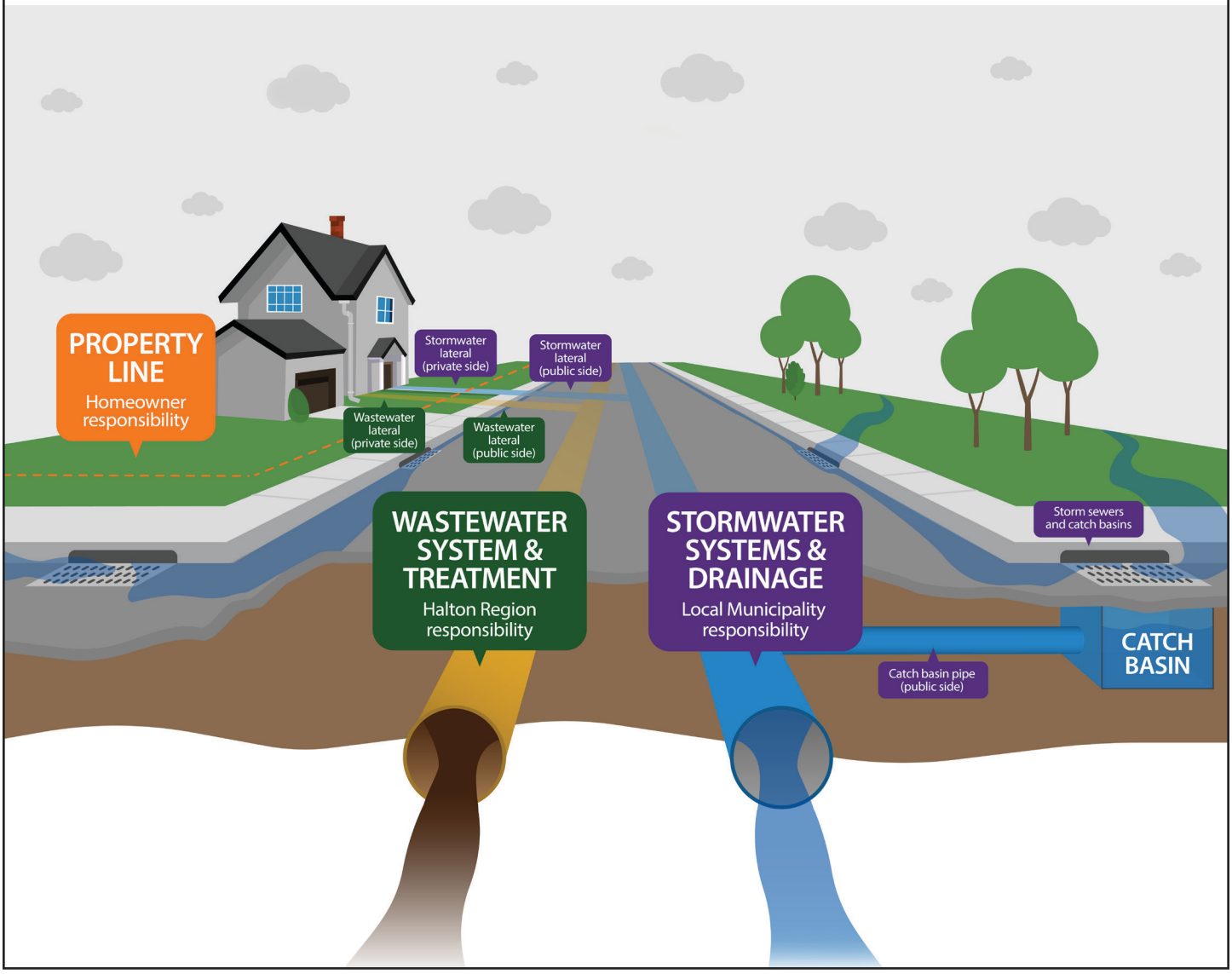
Wastewater Lateral

- The pipe that carries sewage from your home to the Region's wastewater system.
- Halton Region maintains the section of wastewater lateral up to the property line. As the homeowner, you are responsible for the portion running from your home to the property line.

Storm Lateral

- A pipe that directs rainwater from your property to the local municipalities storm sewer system.

Figure 3: How the wastewater and storm systems work





Household Drainage Surveys and Plumbing and Drainage Assessments

Understanding how a home's drainage system is configured, both inside and outside the house, is an important first step before beginning any subsidy-eligible work.

Halton Region requires **proof showing whether stormwater connections to the wastewater system exist or do not exist, along with proof of the lateral condition**, to determine eligibility by subsidy type. This confirmation must be provided through one of the following:

1. A household drainage survey (HHDS) completed by the Region or its consultants, where eligible, or
2. A plumbing or drainage assessment completed by a licensed plumber or qualified drainage contractor.

Both the HHDS and the assessment help identify key drainage features and conditions connected or not connected on the property, including:

- Whether your home's weeping tiles or exterior storm drains (reverse driveway drains, stairwell or patio drains) are connected to the wastewater system
- The location and condition of the wastewater lateral
- Whether downspouts are connected to the wastewater system and where they discharge
- Whether a backwater valve is installed and its condition
- Whether a sump pump exists, and its condition and discharge location

Household drainage survey eligibility

You may be eligible for a HHDS if your home:

- Was built between **mid-1950's to late 1970's**, or
- Has a **previously reported history of basement flooding** due to a wastewater sewer surcharge, or
- Is located in a **Region-defined Priority Area**

To confirm if you are eligible, contact Halton Region by calling 311 or emailing **hhds@halton.ca**

Plumbing or drainage assessments

If your home does not meet the criteria for a HHDS, you are required to obtain a plumbing or drainage assessment from a licensed plumber.

The cost of this assessment will be reimbursed through the subsidy program upon successful completion of eligible work.

Determine If You Qualify for Subsidy

Basement flooding mitigation projects can involve plumbing, excavation, electrical work, and compliance with applicable codes and by-laws. The Subsidy Program supports specific types of work that help reduce the risk of sewer backup and basement flooding due to wastewater system surcharge. To be eligible for any subsidies, your home must be connected to Halton Region's municipal wastewater (sewer) system.

Eligible Work Categories

Weeping Tile Disconnection & Sump Pump Installation

Disconnecting weeping tiles from the wastewater system and installing a sump pump to discharge water safely away from the home.

- Eligible where weeping tiles are connected to the wastewater system.
- Systems must be appropriate for site conditions and discharge in accordance with municipal Drainage by-laws.
- Water-powered backup sump pumps are **not eligible.**

Exterior Storm Drain Disconnection

Disconnecting and redirecting below-grade exterior storm drains (e.g., reverse driveways, stairwells, patios) away from the wastewater system.

- Eligible where these drains are connected to the wastewater system.
- Discharge must be directed to an appropriate surface location in compliance with the local Municipal drainage by-laws.

Downspout Disconnection

Disconnects roof downspouts from your private wastewater lateral or the Region's wastewater system and redirects the water to ground surface at the ground surface.

- Eligible where a connection to the wastewater system is confirmed
- Extensions should discharge away from the foundation (e.g., ~3 m) and onto grading that slopes away from the home to reduce infiltration risk and be in compliance with the local Municipal drainage by-laws.

Wastewater Lateral Lining and Repair

Repairing or rehabilitating the private wastewater lateral to address defects such as cracks, sags, or root intrusion.

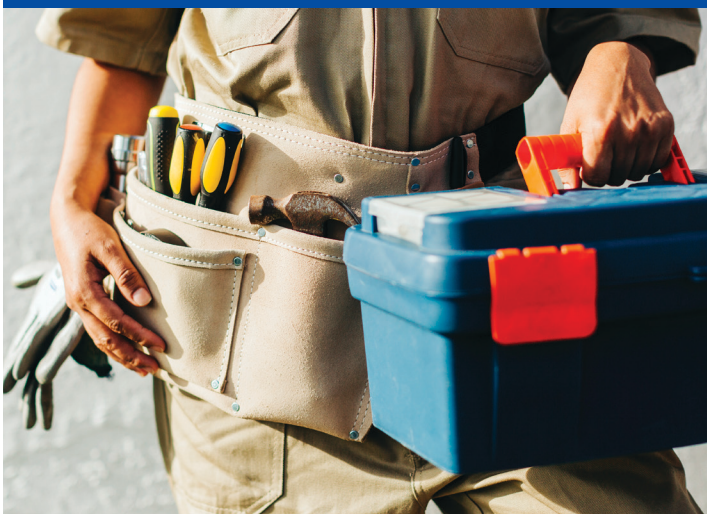
- Eligible where a defect is confirmed and repair is necessary to reduce backup risk.

Backwater Valve Installation

Installing a device that helps prevent wastewater backups from flowing backwards into the home during heavy rain. Backwater valves are not suitable for all homes.

- Exterior installations are **not eligible**.
- Stormwater sources (e.g., weeping tiles) must not be connected to the wastewater system for the valve to be eligible.
- Not all homes are suitable; effectiveness depends on site conditions.

Table 2 on page 15 provides additional examples of typical work and the level of expertise often involved.



Complete or Oversee the Work

Homeowners are responsible for completing subsidy eligible work on their property.

Subsidy eligibility is based on whether the work meets Subsidy Program requirements and is properly documented, not who completes the work. Hiring a contractor is not required under the Subsidy Program—homeowners, friends, or relatives may complete the work, if they have the proper licensing and qualifications for the type of work.

> **Note:** Labour costs are only eligible for reimbursement when the work is completed by a contractor. Homeowner or volunteer labour is not eligible.

If you choose to hire a contractor, many homeowners look for experience related to the type of work being completed (e.g., drainage, plumbing, or sewer-related improvements). Reviewing references or examples of past work may also be helpful.

Some work may require permits and inspections from the Local Municipality. All required approvals must be obtained and inspections completed for the work to remain eligible. Check your Local Municipality to confirm specific requirements.



Apply for Your Subsidy

Once eligible work is complete, homeowners can apply for the subsidy by submitting an application along with all required documentation.

How to Apply

- Ensure all work is complete and any required inspections have successfully passed
- Gather all required documentation to support your application
- Submit your application by email (**BasementFloodingSubsidy@halton.ca**) or by mail, following instructions on **halton.ca**
- Halton Region will review your submission, confirm eligibility, and process payment

Incomplete applications or missing documentation may delay processing or affect eligibility.

Subsidy Eligibility Checklist

To qualify for a subsidy, homeowners must ensure the following requirements are met and provided with their application:

- ☐ Before photos, videos, or dye test results to help confirm pipe condition and whether any stormwater connections to the wastewater system exist or not
- ☐ Photos or videos of completed work to help confirm the subsidy eligible work was completed in accordance with program requirements
- ☐ Invoices/receipts, showing the subsidy-eligible work completed, itemized costs, and payment details
- ☐ Proof of payment, confirming the work has been paid for in full
- ☐ Permits and inspection records, where applicable
- ☐ Supporting information, if needed, to confirm the work meets program requirements (e.g., assessment reports, CCTV, or sketches)

For more details, refer to Table 2 on page 19, which outlines requirements for each type of Subsidy Program mitigation work.



Table 1: Subsidy-Eligible Work and Experience

		Weeping Tile Disconnection & Sump Pump	Exterior Drain Disconnection (Reverse Driveway or Basement Walkout)	Downspout Disconnection	Wastewater Lateral Lining & Repair	Backwater Valve Installation
COMMON TASKS INVOLVED (May vary by property)	Interior Plumbing	✔	✔		✔	✔
	Sewer Repairs and Replacement				✔	
	Electrical / Power Connections	✔	✔			
	Foundation Coring / Concrete Cutting	✔	✔			✔
	Excavation		✔		✔	
	Exterior Drainage / Landscaping	✔	✔	✔	✔	
WORK IS COMMONLY PERFORMED BY*	Licensed Plumber or Drainage Contractor	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
	Excavation Contractor		✔		✔	
	Licensed Electrician	✔	✔			
	Homeowner (where permitted and applicable)			✔		
Examples of Relevant Experience and Knowledge		• Familiarity with CCTV inspections commonly used to confirm drainage connections • Knowledge of basement drainage systems and typical discharge approaches • Awareness of Ontario Building Code requirements and local drainage bylaws	• Experience with surface grading and drainage considerations • Experience with excavation activities and site restoration • Awareness of Ontario Building Code requirements and local drainage bylaws	• Experience with redirecting roof runoff away from foundations • Awareness of stormwater discharge practices and downspout requirements • Awareness of local drainage bylaws	• Experience with open-cut lateral replacement, spot repairs, or trenchless relining methods • Awareness of provincial and municipal sewer standards • Familiarity with permitting processes, utility locates, and construction safety considerations	• Experience with basement plumbing modifications • Awareness of installation considerations and applicable code requirements • Familiarity with valve placement considerations and commonly used testing methods

Table 2: Eligibility Requirements for the Subsidy Program

	Weeping Tile Disconnection & Sump Pump Installation	Exterior Drain Disconnection (Reverse Driveway and Below-grade Walkout)	Downspout Disconnection	Wastewater Lateral Lining and Repair	Backwater Valve Installation
Local Municipal Permit Required	✔ if new sump pump is installed	✔ if sump pump is installed Drainage engineering for gravity outlet	✘	✔	✔
Local Municipal Permit Obtained & Inspections Signed Off	✔	✔ if sump pump is installed Drainage engineering for gravity outlet	✘	✔	✔
Itemized invoice (payment in full)	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Household drainage survey / plumbing assessment required	✔	✔	✘	✔	✔
Proof that work was required	✔ Proof of storm connections to wastewater with CCTV/dye test	✔ Proof of storm connections to wastewater with CCTV/dye test	✔ Proof of storm connections to wastewater with CCTV/dye test	✔ Proof of condition with CCTV	✔ Proof that any storm connections upstream were disconnected and take photos
Proof that work was completed	✔ Proof of disconnection with CCTV/photos	✔ Proof of disconnection with CCTV/photos	✔ Proof of surface discharge with photos	✔ Proof of repairs/ lining with CCTV	✔ Verify slope with ball test results and proof completed with photos