



**TOWN OF BURLINGTON**  
**Board of Health**  
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April 9, 2010

Dear Citizens:

In recent weeks, the Town of Burlington Board of Health has received numerous inquiries from residents regarding sump pump water and drainage issues. The Board of Health enforces a policy on the control of sump pump water and a regulation on drainage permits.

The Board of Health Policy on the Control of Sump Pump Water states that “outfall shall occur at an upgradient portion of the property or a portion of the property which will allow for the water to infiltrate on the property of generation. The outfall shall not be proximal to a crossgradient or downgradient property boundary. Sump pump water may also be piped to an on-site dry well that is properly constructed as to allow for and promote storm water infiltration without impacting adjacent properties.” Please ensure that all drainage outfall pipes on your property are located in a grassy/vegetated area away from property boundaries. In addition, another option that may be available to homeowners is the connection of the sump pump system, at the homeowner’s expense, to the Town’s drainage service connection. A Licensed Utility Contractor must be secured to obtain a street opening/utility permit in order to install a drainage service connection to the municipal infrastructure. For more information, please contact the Town of Burlington Engineering Division at 781-270-1640.

The Board of Health Drainage Regulation states that any person intending to conduct proposed activities at a property which include the construction of any structure or building or the alteration of the grade of any existing property which may create an accumulation of stagnant water or an alteration of drainage patterns at the property or adjacent properties, must apply to the Board of Health for a Drainage Permit. If you are planning on conducting such activities at your property, please evaluate your proposed development with your contractor and determine whether or not there will be a grade change that will result in an alteration of drainage patterns/standing water and apply for the Board of Health Drainage Permit, if necessary.

If you would like information on the clean up of flooded homes, one source is the National Center for Healthy Homes (NCHH). The NCHH Flood Cleanup Guide can be viewed at [www.centerforhealthyhousing.org/FloodCleanupGuide\\_screen\\_.pdf](http://www.centerforhealthyhousing.org/FloodCleanupGuide_screen_.pdf).

If the Board of Health can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Town of Burlington Health Department

[Board of Health Members](#)

Terry McSweeney - Chairman · Edward Weiner, Ph.D. - Vice-Chairman · James Dion · Catherine Read, Ph.D., RN · Wayne S. Saltsman, M.D., Ph.D.