

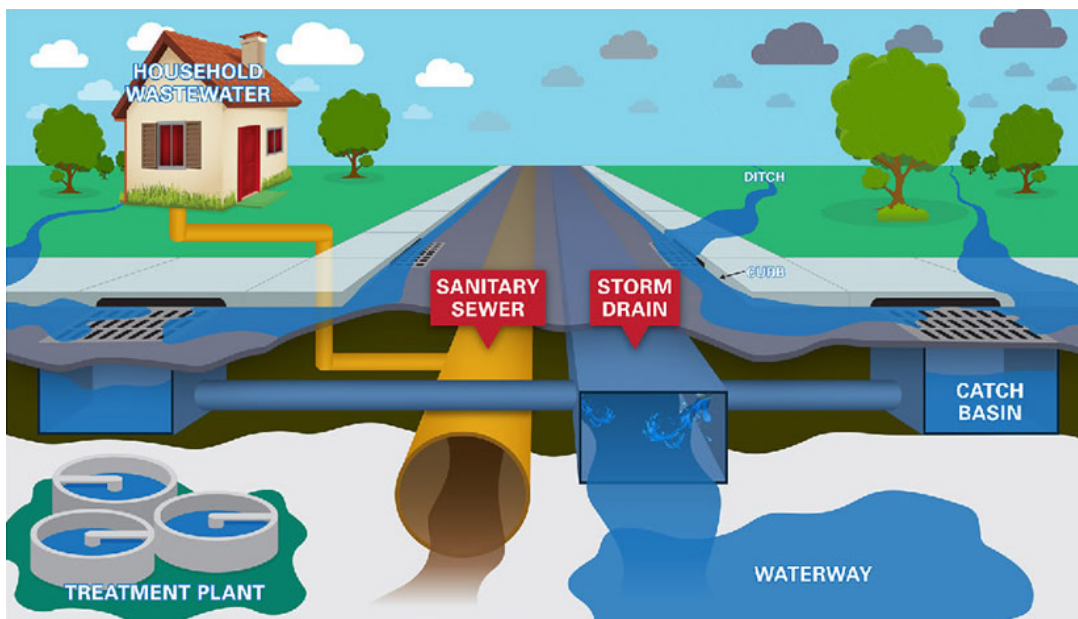
## SANITARY SEWER VS STORM SEWER 101

- **Sanitary Sewer Systems**

Sanitary sewer systems are underground pipes that carry sewage from bathrooms, sinks, kitchens, & other plumbing components to a wastewater treatment plant where it is filtered, treated and discharged according to federal & state regulations.

- **Storm Sewer Systems**

Storm sewer systems are designed to carry rainfall runoff and other drainage. It is not designed to carry sewage or accept hazardous waste. The runoff is carried in underground pipes or open ditches and discharges into local streams, rivers and other surface water bodies. Storm drain inlets are typically found in curbs and low-lying outdoor areas.



When it comes to sump pumps and sewer systems, there are some important considerations:

1. **Sump Pump Drainage Guidelines:**

- A sump pump is typically installed to prevent water accumulation in basements or crawl spaces. Proper drainage is crucial.
- **Never** connect your sump pump discharge hose directly to the **sanitary sewer line**. Doing so is not allowed in the Town of Concord.
- **Sanitary sewer lines** are meant for human waste and other sanitary materials.

- Instead, consider draining your sump pump away from your house, usually about **20 feet or further from the foundation**. This helps prevent water from seeping back into your basement or crawl space.
  - An alternative is to direct the sump pump discharge into either a French drain or a dry well.
  - Sump pump discharges are not allowed to enter the right-of-way. Directing flows to your backyard is a good way to prevent this from happening.
2. **Storm Sewers vs. Sanitary Sewers:**
- While connecting to the **main sanitary line** is a no-go, you can seek a drainage covenant, through the Engineering Division, for direct connection of your sump pump discharge to the public storm sewer system under verified hardship conditions.
  - Learn more about drainage covenants here: [Concord Stormwater Regulations](#)
3. **Septic Systems:**
- Draining a sump pump directly into a **septic system** is generally **not recommended**. It can disrupt bacterial processes and potentially lead to early failure of the entire septic system.

In summary, prioritize proper drainage away from your home, follow local guidelines, and avoid connecting your sump pump to sewer lines.

For more information and how to help minimize the amount of storm water infiltrating into the Town's sanitary sewer system, please contact the Water & Sewer Division or the Engineering Department.