

IMPORTANT TIPS FOR PROTECTING YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY FROM FLOODS

Know Your Flood Risk

- Visit nyc.gov/stormwater-map to understand the level of risk you may face today during an intense storm and which areas in your neighborhood may experience flooded roadways.
- Learn more about flood insurance and flood retrofits at floodhelpny.org.

Stay Informed

Sign up for Notify NYC, the city's official source for information about emergency events and important services, by calling 311 or visiting nyc.gov/notifynyc.

Be Prepared

Listen to local weather forecasts and announcements from officials and prepare a Go Bag that you can grab in case you need to leave your home in a hurry. Always avoid driving or walking through flooded areas.

Call 311 to report roadway flooding or sewer backups not caused by conditions in your home.

For more information, visit rainfallready.nyc or scan this QR code:



Para una copia en español, visite rainfallready.nyc

中文翻译, 请访问 rainfallready.nyc

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Rainfall Ready NYC: A Homeowner's Guide

Tips to help you protect your home from flooding and sewer backups during rainfall events



TIP 1 HELP KEEP CATCH BASIN GRATES CLEAR

DEP cleans and maintains the city's 7,500 miles of sewer mains and 150,000 catch basins on a regular basis. Litter stuck on top of catch basin grates can prevent stormwater from entering the sewer system, which can cause street flooding. You can help by disposing of litter properly and by carefully removing leaves or trash from catch basin grates before or during a rain event.

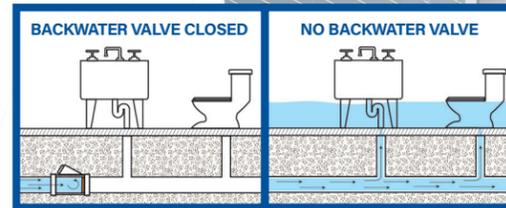
TIP 2 KEEP GREASE OUT OF THE SEWERS

Homeowners own and are responsible for maintaining the sewer service line that connects from the city's sewer main in the street to your home. Improper disposal of grease and cooking oil can clog both your home's internal pipes and city sewers and cause sewer backups. Place grease in a container labeled "Cooking Oil - Not for Recycling" and discard with regular garbage.

TIP 3 PROTECT AREAS BELOW STREET LEVEL

Below street level spaces, such as underground garages and basement doors, are the most vulnerable to flooding. Reduce the risk of flooding by sealing cracks in foundation walls. You can also purchase easy to set up flood barriers to keep water from entering below-or at-grade windows and doors. Sandbags can be a cost-effective barrier option. Other options include window wells, flood walls around doors, and flood gates at driveway entrances. Make sure that any barriers used do not block important exits from your home, in case you need to leave during an emergency.

5 CONSIDER BACKWATER VALVES



TIP 4 INSTALL PROPER ROOF DRAINAGE

Directing stormwater from your roof away from the foundation walls of your home is critical in keeping your basement dry. Clean your gutters regularly and connect downspouts to appropriate drains. Consider installing a rain barrel as an alternative method to capturing stormwater - you can then use the stored water to wash your car or water your lawn!

TIP 5 CONSIDER INSTALLING A BACKWATER VALVE

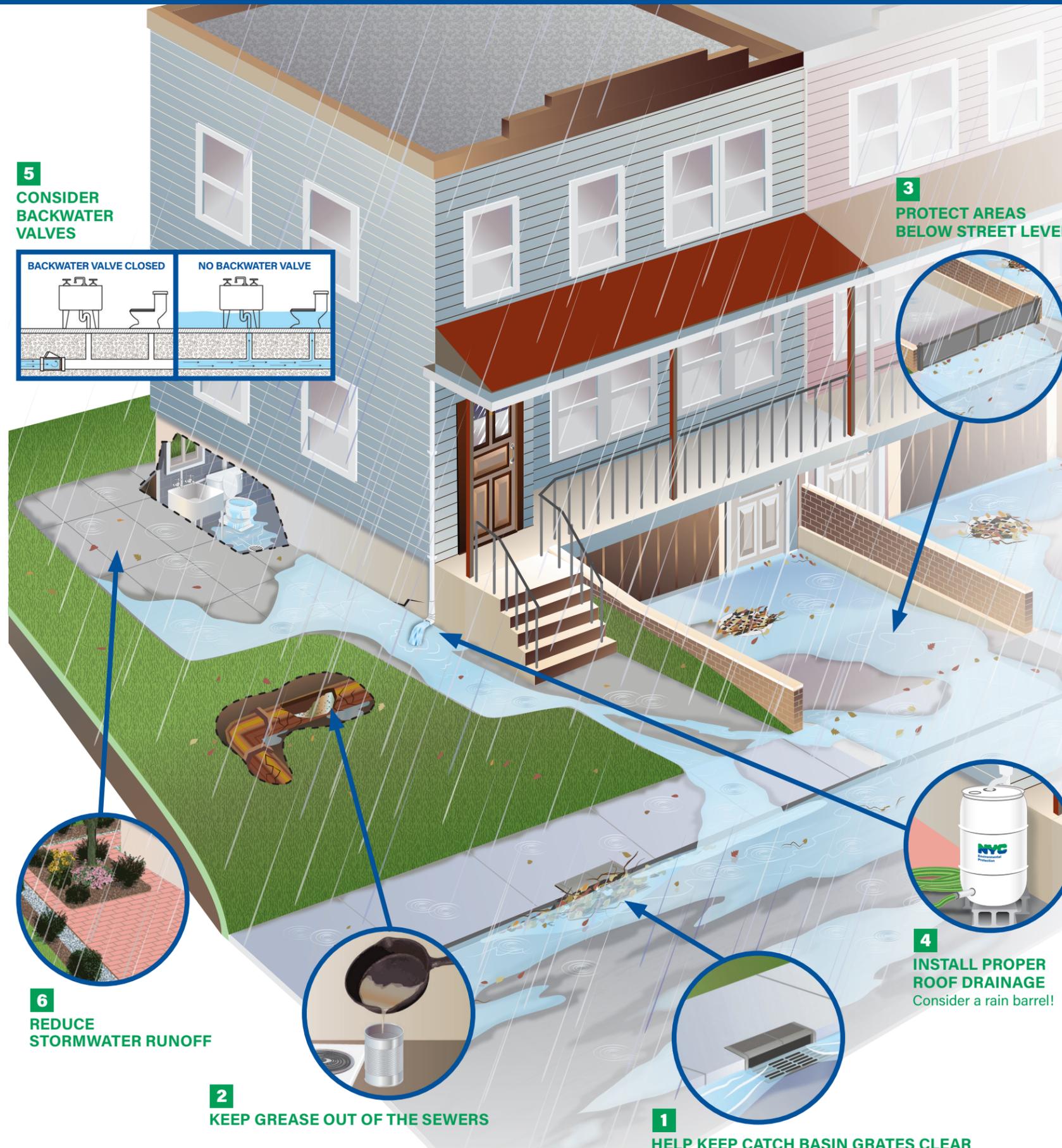
A backwater valve can prevent sewer water from backing up into your home through basement plumbing fixtures such as toilets, sinks, and drains. If you already have a backwater valve installed, you should not use basement plumbing fixtures while the valve is closed because you can risk flooding your property. In some cases, drain plugs can also be used to prevent sewer backups. Contact a plumber to help you decide if a backwater valve makes sense for your home

TIP 6 REDUCE STORMWATER RUNOFF

Preserving and creating green space around your home can help reduce stormwater runoff into the sewer, which can help prevent or lessen flooding. When installing a patio or walkway, consider using alternatives to concrete, such as porous paving stones, which allow water to be absorbed into the ground.

TIP 7 PROTECT CRITICAL EQUIPMENT

Elevate critical equipment (like boilers, electrical panels, heaters, generators, utilities, and meters) out of harm's way, if possible, either to a higher floor or off the ground above the level of flooding. Other options include protecting equipment by using barriers, dry flood proofing, or selecting submersible/waterproof equipment if the area often is exposed to water.



6 REDUCE STORMWATER RUNOFF

2 KEEP GREASE OUT OF THE SEWERS

1 HELP KEEP CATCH BASIN GRATES CLEAR

4 INSTALL PROPER ROOF DRAINAGE
Consider a rain barrel!

3 PROTECT AREAS BELOW STREET LEVEL