

Basement Sewage Ejector Pump - GFCI Protected

Sewer and ejector pumps are crucial for moving wastewater from areas below the main sewer line, like basements, and they're often connected to a GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter) outlet for added safety, especially when near water sources. Proper maintenance and care of the pump and the GFCI outlet are important to keep the system running smoothly and safely. Here are some key tips:



1. Regular Testing of GFCI Outlet

- **Test Monthly:** Press the "Test" button on the GFCI outlet at least once a month to ensure it trips correctly. Then, press "Reset" to restore power.
- **Check for Nuisance Tripping:** GFCI outlets can sometimes trip unnecessarily. If this happens frequently, consider consulting an electrician to ensure the outlet and wiring are correctly installed and that moisture isn't causing the trips.



2. Clean the Pump and Pit Regularly

- **Remove Debris:** Every year, have a professional inspect the ejector pit and remove any large debris that could clog the pump. Make sure the pump is unplugged before doing this.
- **Pump Cleanout:** Every year, have a professional carefully clean the pump itself by removing any buildup or residue on its surface and impeller. This helps maintain efficiency and prevents clogs.



3. Test the Pump's Operation

- **Run Water to Test:** Pour several gallons of water into the pit to ensure the pump activates properly or a drain that leads directly into the pit. This should be done every few months or after a long period of disuse.
- **Listen for Unusual Noises:** Grinding or rattling noises may indicate problems with the impeller or debris inside the pump, requiring cleaning or professional maintenance.



4. Monitor Moisture and Avoid Corrosion

- **Install a Dehumidifier (if needed):** Excess moisture around the GFCI and the pump can lead to premature corrosion. A dehumidifier in the basement can help reduce moisture levels.
- **Check for Rust and Corrosion:** Inspect the pump and outlet for signs of rust or corrosion, which can reduce efficiency and safety. If you notice corrosion on the GFCI outlet, replace it immediately.



Basement Sewage Ejector Pump Continued



5. Inspect the Float Switch

- **Keep the Float Clear:** Ensure that the float switch, which activates the pump, moves freely without obstruction. Sometimes debris in the pit can hinder its motion, causing the pump to run continuously or fail to turn on.



6. Plan for Backup Power and Alarms

- **Power Outage:** Avoid using the basement bath during power outages.
- **Alarm:** If Berks Homes installs an ejector pump, they will also install an outlet with an alarm.
 - *When it trips or there is a power outage the alarm sounds.*
- **Battery Backup:** Consider a battery backup system to keep the pump running during power outages, especially in homes that experience frequent blackouts.
- **Alarm System:** Install a water alarm or sensor in the pit to notify you of high water levels, which could indicate a pump failure or blockage.

By following these steps, you'll help extend the lifespan of your sewer/ejector pump and ensure it operates safely on a GFCI outlet. Regular inspection and prompt attention to potential issues can prevent costly repairs and water damage.

Technical Services Team