If you own or live in a basement property you may be at risk of flooding. Basement flooding can occur at any time and not just during wet weather. It can be caused by extremely heavy rainfall over a short period of time or by unexpected blockages in the drainage system, either of which may lead to the public drainage system filling up and backing up into the basements of adjacent properties, which are not fitted with protection devices.

Unexpected blockages can be caused by people discharging unsuitable material such as large volumes of grease or other bulky material to the drainage system. The drawings overleaf show how easily basement flooding can occur.

**Solution 1:**
Installation of a pump system with a new high level connection to the public sewer, which prevents sewer backup into basement.

**Solution 2:**
Installation of non-return valve (NRV) which prevents sewer backup into basement.
Basement Flooding

Basement flooding can destroy your property and lead to difficulties in getting adequate insurance cover in future. Even if your basement has no history of flooding you may still be at risk. To protect your property you can do either of the following.

- Install a non-return valve (also known as a back-water valve). A non return valve is a device that prevents effluent backing up from a main sewer line into adjacent basements. The valve automatically closes when effluent begins to back up.
- Install a pump on your drain outlet, which pumps your effluent to a high level which then discharges to the public drainage system.

If you require more information on protecting your property from basement flooding please contact Dublin City Council, Drainage Division at 222 2413.

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**Fig. 1:** Run of Houses with basement level connections. Sewer flowing freely in dry weather conditions.

**Fig. 2:** Sewer begins to fill up due to either adverse weather conditions or an unexpected blockage in the system.

**Fig. 3:** Sewer has now backed up due to extreme weather conditions or unexpected blockage. Note that all basements will flood to a level equal to the water level in the public sewer.