St. Catharines

PO Box 3012, 50 Church St.
St. Catharines, ON L2R 7C2

↓ Emergency FLAP: Two Main Goals ↓

1. PROTECT	2. REDUCE
Help residents protect their properties against basement flooding caused by sewer surcharging events.	Disconnect weeping tiles to reduce the amount of rainwater and groundwater from entering the sanitary sewer system, reducing the overall strain during heavy rainfall events. This also reduces the total amount of water sent to the treatment plant and complies with Part 7 of the Ontario Building Code (OBC).

Start by checking your property's eligibility, then review the backwater valve, weeping tile and sump pump requirements. Next, review the rebate amount, what to do before applying or starting work, and the permit and payment timelines.

1. IS THE PROPERTY ELIGIBLE?

START HERE		
	• Single-detached residential properties (including duplexes and triplexes) • Semi-detached residential properties • Homes built before 2012 • Property is located within the City of St. Catharines • Property is connected to the City of St. Catharines sewer system (i.e., not on a septic system) *Have you previously received the FLAP rebate? Unfortunately, you are not eligible to participate again*	**NO → NOT ELIGIBLE** Homes built after 2012 and apartment buildings are NOT eligible. Condominium / townhouse complexes directly connected to privately owned and maintained sewer infrastructure are also ineligible.

↓ YES ↓

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2. WHAT BACKWATER VALVE WORK ARE YOU PLANNING?

NEW BACKWATER VALVE	REPLACEMENT BACKWATER VALVE	OTHER REPLACEMENTS
YES → Eligible on a qualifying residential property built before 2012.	Eligible only if the existing valve is an outdated cast-iron model or a normally closed model (on main building drain) and adheres to the other criteria listed above.	**NO** → Not eligible unless the replacement meets one of the stated criteria.

↓ **CONTINUE TO THE WEEPING-TILE CHECK** ↓

3. ARE WEEPING TILES CONNECTED TO THE SANITARY LATERAL / BUILDING DRAIN?

YES → DISCONNECTION IS REQUIRED	NO → DISCONNECTION IS NOT REQUIRED	IMPORTANT — BACKWATER VALVE LIMITATION
Weeping tile connected to the sanitary lateral must be disconnected. The connection may be outside the foundation wall or inside the home at a floor drain.	Weeping tiles are not connected to the sanitary lateral, and therefore no sump system is required.	A backwater valve cannot be installed where a weeping tile connection to the sanitary lateral remains.

If you are unsure how your weeping tile is connected, confirm the plumbing configuration with a qualified professional before proceeding. This can be done with a CCTV assessment, using the Contractor Assessment form as a reference.

4. ARE YOU INSTALLING OR REPLACING A SUMP PUMP?

STAND-ALONE REPLACEMENT	PAIRED WITH A NEW BACKWATER VALVE	NO WEEPING TILE CONNECTION
NO → Replacing a primary or secondary sump pump on its own is NOT eligible.	Eligible if the weeping tiles are properly connected to the existing sump pit, and all other program conditions are met.	**NO** → Sump pit and pump installations without the required weeping tile disconnection are NOT eligible.

↓ **CHECK THE PURPOSE OF THE SUMP PUMP** ↓

HYDROSTATIC PRESSURE / GROUNDWATER **NO** → Sump pumps installed to alleviate hydrostatic pressure from groundwater are NOT eligible. Sump systems are only eligible if an existing weeping tile connection to the sanitary lateral is disconnected and re-directed to the new sump pit.	**WEEPING TILE DISCONNECTION FROM STORM LATERALS** **NO** → Weeping tile disconnection is only eligible if the existing connection is to the sanitary lateral. Emergency FLAP does NOT reimburse the disconnection of foundation drainage to the storm system.	**SUMP PIT WITH PUMP(S)** **YES** → Eligible when installed as part of the weeping tile disconnection process. Includes all devices, associated labour and installation, and discharge drainage.

5. HOW IS THE REBATE CALCULATED?

REBATE CALCULATION The final rebate is calculated at 90% of eligible project costs, including HST, up to a maximum of $5,000. Costs for work that doesn't qualify under the program will NOT be reimbursed. Please submit all receipts and invoices for completed work, including the permit fee, so eligible costs can be determined.	**GRANT MAXIMUM** The rebate amount is capped at $5,000.00.

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6. BEFORE YOU APPLY OR START WORK

INELIGIBLE WORK WILL BE IDENTIFIED	QUESTIONS?
Only eligible work will be covered by the Emergency FLAP grant. Please have your chosen contractor perform an initial camera assessment of your internal plumbing and fill out the Emergency FLAP Contractor Assessment Form. The Contractor Assessment Form will be required to issue a Plumbing-Only permit and will provide an overview of the required work and estimated costs.	Contact the City of St. Catharines for guidance before applying or beginning work. Rebate issuance depends on the project meeting all applicable program conditions. Permit/plumbing questions: building@stcatharines.ca Program questions: FLAP@stcatharines.ca

7. TIMELINES

PLUMBING PERMIT TIMELINE	FLAP REBATE TIMELINE
Issuance: After the initial review (2-3 business days), the permit will be issued within 10 business days (post review). **Closure:** The Emergency FLAP payment cannot be released until the associated permit has been closed, and all documentation submitted for review. *Applicants can track their permit progress through the online portal and/or ask their contractor for more information*.	Once your submission has been reviewed and approved for reimbursement, the Program Coordinator will send you a confirmation email. You can expect to receive your rebate cheque within 4 to 6 weeks after receiving your confirmation email. *Note: Opening, inspecting, and closing a FLAP PO permit does not guarantee funding eligibility.*