

Spring Snowmelt – Frequently Asked Questions

My basement has never flooded before. Am I still at risk for a snowmelt flood?

Yes. If the snow melts quickly, you may be at risk for flooding if you haven't taken appropriate steps.

Water too close to your basement wall can seep through tiny cracks and create a damp basement, or even damage the foundation of your house. In extreme cases, water may build up in your basement if the path to the City sewer is obstructed.

There's so much snow in my yard that I can't move it all. What can I do?

Snow shovelling is heavy work. If you have health concerns, get help from friends, family, neighbours or professionals. Health permitting, consider moving small amounts of snow over several days so it's not such a big job. Please use caution and care when shovelling snow.

Should I spread snow from my yard onto the street or back lane so it melts faster?

No. More snow on the streets and back lanes will make driving and walking unsafe, and obstruct drainage channels.

In the spring, the catch basin on my street is covered with ice and debris, and the water has nowhere to go. What should I do?

Where possible and safe, help clear snow, ice, and debris from the catch basins in your area. If that is not possible, call the City of Saskatoon, Public Works Branch at 975-2476. Crews will come to clear the catch basin as soon they can. Please note that there are 9700 catch basins in Saskatoon.

What can I do if there is standing water in my yard?

Ensure that the drainage path from your yard to the street or back lane isn't blocked with snow or ice, and clear it if required. Consider renting or buying an appropriate pump to drain standing water from your yard to the gutter or back lane. Please use all equipment properly and follow safety guidelines.

Water from my neighbour's yard comes onto my property during the snowmelt.

What can I do?

Talk to your neighbour and plan to work together to channel the water from your properties onto the street or back lane. Ensure you have both removed snow from along the outside edges of your properties.

Where can I find the surface drainage plan for my neighbourhood?

Areas of the City with back lanes do not have such designs, as all lots drain to the street or back lane. Areas of the City where there are no back lanes do have drainage designs. Call the City of Saskatoon at 975-2454 for information on your surface drainage plan. A copy of the plan can be emailed or mailed to you.