

DIY Emergency Sump Pump Kit

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Many homes in LWC rely at least occasionally on a sump pump to remove excess water from the crawl space below the house, especially during extended rains, and some of us rely on a sump pump quite often. The crawl space can fill with water relatively quickly, and that water can ruin ducting, cause electrical shorts, or seep into the living space above. This can become an immediate and serious problem when the sump pump fails or when the electricity goes out. LWC residents know that we often experience a power failure during a storm; obviously, **no power means no sump pump** unless you're clever enough to have installed a generator that will continue to supply power to the sump pump.

We've discovered, through trial and humbling error, that it's important to have a DIY "emergency sump pump kit" (pictured below) to use with our portable generator. We keep our kit in a tub in the garage, and we can quickly bring it into the house and place it near the trap door to the crawl space. The tub contains everything we're likely to need to forestall a flood in the event that the sump pump fails for whatever reason. The tub contains:

- **Submersible pump** with a rope tied to the handle to lower it into the crawl space. The kind *without* a float/switch is inexpensive, but you have to keep an eye on it, since it won't shut off automatically after the water is pumped out.
- An appropriate **length of garden hose**. We keep ours attached to the pump. The hose is long enough to reach from the crawl space into the laundry room sink where we pump out the water.
- **Duct tape** to tape down the garden hose to minimize a tripping hazard
- **Plumber's tape** to ensure no leaks where the garden hose is connected to the submersible pump

- **Extension cord** to bring power from our portable generator to the submersible pump. Per the manufacturer's instructions, we place the generator 20' from the house to reduce the risk of carbon monoxide coming into the house.

Approximate cost of a DIY emergency sump pump kit - \$150 - \$200

- Submersible pump (without an automatic float shutoff system) - \$75 - \$100
- Garden hose - \$20
- Extension cord - (50') - \$50
- Miscellaneous tape, etc. - ?

