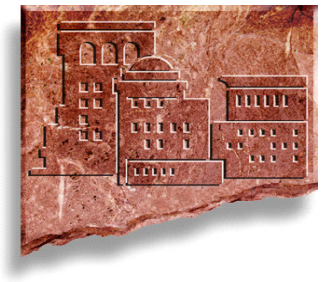
Testing Your Sump Pump

January 2006



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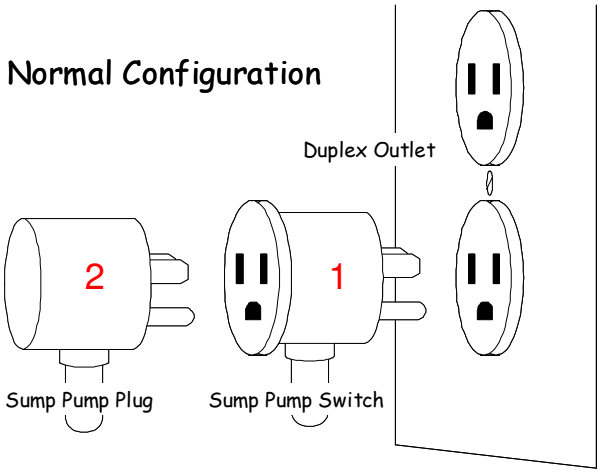
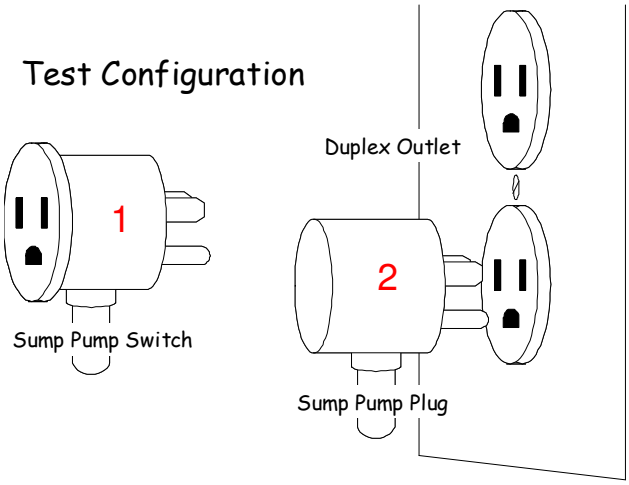


It is not recommended to use a GFCI outlet for sump pumps



Your house is fighting a constant battle against water and moisture. An ever vigilant sentry in your homes arsenal is the sump pump. It is important to test and maintain your sump pump monthly. This simple to follow procedure will allow you to test your pump.

The sump pump should have two power connections plugged into an outlet. The first power plug is the switch connected to the float. This is the mechanism that turns the pump on when the pit is full of water. The second is the power connection for the pump.

Disconnect the switch plug (1) and connect the pump plug (2) directly into the power source. You should be able to hear the pump turn on. This is an indication that the pump is working.

Be careful not to run the pump more than a few seconds. Excessive running could damage the pump. Reassemble the power connection, as shown in the normal configuration (1, 2). This procedure does not test the switch. The best way to test the switch is to add water to the pit.

Inspect the inside the pit with a flashlight occasionally. Sealed sump pump pits should be inspected by a licensed contractor. Most pits are two to three feet deep. The pit should be free of gravel and debris. Debris can clog or damage the pump. Debris in the pit is an indication of a problem with window well drains or a possibly damaged drain tile. All debris should be removed.

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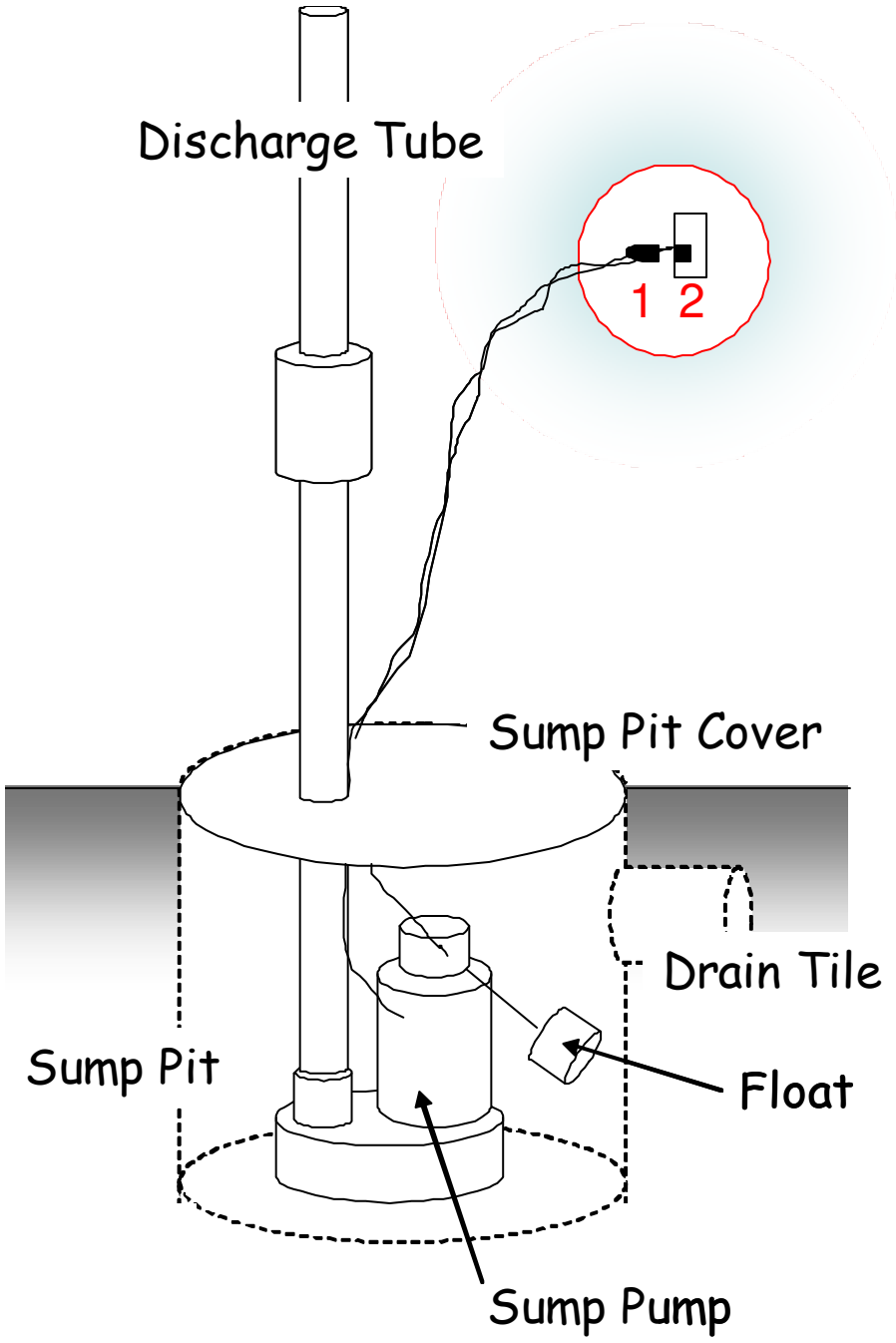

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