

THE RAINY DAY GAZETTE

IAPMO bans water-powered sump pumps

Not allowed in new GREEN building code

In thousands and thousands of homes across the United States a plumbing product lurks, capable of carelessly wasting hundreds of gallons of water, when it's completely unnecessary for these products to be installed.

The product is called a "water-powered sump pump;" it's installed primarily as a backup device to a primary sump pump. In a heavy rain, ground water under a house rises and pours into a sump pit where a sump pump, pumps this dirty rainwater out of the basement.

If the power goes out and the primary sump pump is inoperative, that's when these water wasters kick in. They can draw up to 600 gallons of fresh drinking water per hour, where it's used to pump rising ground water up and out of the sump pit. Most water-powered

sump pumps use one gallon of fresh water for every gallon of dirty ground water they pump out.

Based on an estimated population of 50,000 to 100,000 water-powered sump pumps in the U.S., the total fresh water consumption is estimated to be 795 million to 1.5 billion gallons per year!

It's easy to see the completely unnecessary waste of fresh-drinking

"...approving code that PROHIBITS the installation of water-powered sump pumps"

water through the use of water-powered sump pumps.

Finally, plumbing organizations are recognizing this fact as the IAPMO (International Association

of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials) Green Technical Committee took a huge step towards water conservation and public health by approving code that **PROHIBITS** the installation of water-powered sump pumps, in the new Green Plumbing & Mechanical Code Supplement.

The committee recognizes the unnecessary waste of water and potential health hazards that are associated with these pumps. This code addition is proof water-

powered sump pumps are wasteful and dangerous and should NEVER be installed.

This is a good start, but more diligence is needed. As the EPA says



"every drop counts;" that's why water management officials, public works officials, home builders, contractors, plumbers, plumbing inspectors and homeowners should say NO to water-powered sump pumps.

The 2009 World Water Development Report goes on to say "avoiding negative impacts on water is a matter not only of social responsibility, but also of the long-term sustainability of public and private investment."

The message is clear – careless use of water is not socially or governmentally responsible; and now, finally, wasting water is against GREEN plumbing code.