

Feltner Sewer & Drain Details Plumbing Checks for Home Buyers After Recent Floods

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MILWAUKEE, WI - November 20, 2026 -
Feltner Sewer & Drain outlines what a plumbing inspection before buying a house should cover after the August 2025 and April 2026 floods. The company offers sump pump testing, sewer camera inspections, and leak detection when water damage is not immediately visible. Milwaukee-area buyers can ask the inspector whether corrosion or leaks at the valve suggest replacing the shut-off valve.

Record rainfall hit the Greater Milwaukee area on August 9 and 10, 2025, according to the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District. Fourteen areas monitored by the district?s rain gauges received seven inches or more of rain in 24 hours. The district also received more than 1,100 reports of water backing up into basements during the storm.

Storms from April 14 to 18, 2026, dropped more than seven inches of rain on parts of the district?s service area. Hundreds of basement backups were reported in many areas of the 29 communities the district serves. The two events brought basement water risks into focus for buyers touring Milwaukee homes this winter.

The Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance says homeowners policies need a special endorsement to cover sewer backup or sump pump overflow. The National Flood Insurance Program covers sewer backup only when a flood directly causes it, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Because coverage is limited, the sump pump and sewer line matter to a buyer?s finances.

A plumbing inspection for a home with a basement should include a sump pump check if one is installed. Company technicians verify the unit turns on and off, then inspect the discharge lines and check valve, which stops pumped water from flowing back. The company says sump pumps typically last seven to 10 years with regular care, so buyers should consider the unit?s age.

Power outages and cold weather can strain a sump system. Battery backups can keep a pump running when the power fails, while stuck float switches and frozen or disconnected discharge lines can stop it from clearing water. The company recommends an annual professional inspection of the sump system, ideally before the rainy season.

A failing pump does not always require replacement, since a stuck float switch or clogged discharge line may require only a repair. Older units and those that repeatedly fail during storms are often better replaced, according to the company. A new installation starts with an on-site assessment of the basement or crawl space for water intrusion and drainage issues.

A sewer camera inspection shows the inside of the pipe without digging. The waterproof device sends live video, allowing technicians to look for tree root intrusion or grease buildup. It can reveal cracked or collapsed pipes, and technicians may also spot sagging or misaligned sections.

The inspection results help locate the problem and determine the appropriate repair. Crews may then be able to limit digging to the repair site, depending on the damage. A smaller work zone can help protect paved areas and landscaping.

Older homes may carry added risk when they have cast iron or clay sewer lines. Cast iron can corrode, while clay may crack or deteriorate. The company says camera findings can affect negotiations and closing timelines, and they may also influence insurance decisions.

Water leaks are another concern because they can remain hidden and cause rot and mold. Examples include a pinhole leak in a copper pipe behind drywall or a slow leak under a slab. Professional detection methods can locate hidden leaks while limiting unnecessary cutting.

Feltner Sewer & Drain has served Milwaukee and surrounding southeastern Wisconsin communities since 1996. The Blanton family owns and operates the business, which is bonded and insured, and its technicians are licensed. Services include sump pump installation and sewer camera inspection, and emergency plumbing is available around the clock.

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Feltner's Sewer & Drain Services

Feltner Sewer & Drain is a family-owned, 24/7 plumbing and drain cleaning company serving southeastern Wisconsin and northern Illinois.

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