

## Sump Pump Covers Q&A 7-29-2024

1. Sometimes if you put a cover on, you would not be able to get it off again without cutting the pipe, how would it be accessible?

While each situation is unique and may require customized fabrication, we suggest making a two-piece cover so that it is removable without having to cut the pipes. Use weatherstripping and gasket material to create a tight seal where the two pieces meet and around the penetrations. The covers should be rigid, airtight, and removable.

2. If you cut the pipe to put on a cover, you would only be able to push this cover up to where you put the coupler, which may not leave you enough space to service and/or replace a pump.

Please see the response to question #1.

3. If you have to cut pipes, would this task be better suited for a plumbing contractor and not our general/shell contractor?

Cutting the pipes in most cases shouldn't be necessary. In rare instances, it may be required to enlist the services of a plumbing contractor to modify or replace the existing system.

4. If a contractor is given license to be creative; how would we (auditor, agency) know what the cost might be? As a manager, there is a concern with putting more on our contractors than they are comfortable with.

Creativity will be necessary to address each unique situation. The auditor should have a general idea of the design process and guide the contractor on the building and fabrication of the wooden box.

5. If you get a cover with larger holes- can you put a gasket that has a split in it, that way the cover could be removed?

Yes. A split gasket that meets the requirements of the Standard Work Specifications ID: 2.0401.2 would be acceptable. [Sump Well/Pit Covers | Standard Work Specifications \(nrel.gov\)](#)

6. If you seal the existing cover, how will water coming into the home go into the sump pit?

Please refer to [Sump Well/Pit Covers | Standard Work Specifications \(nrel.gov\)](#)

7. What if the washing machine goes bad and the water can't get in the pit? This would flood a basement.

Please see the response to question #6.

8. What if a homeowner does not want anyone doing any work to the sump pit because they have had issues in the past with flooding?

Sump well/pit covers are DOE required health and safety measures. Please see CSPM 600 series, section 6.15 of the Health and Safety plan. Buildings that cannot be weatherized without the H&S measures shall be deferred if the H&S measures cannot be installed. It is possible that a bulk moisture issue or concern would lead to deferral of the unit. Please

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reference CSPM Item 609 for more information on the Deferral Policy and allowable repairs utilizing deferral reduction funding.

9. Can the homeowner choose to skip this measure (Sump Pump covers)? Is it required?

Please see the response to question #8.

10. What is a reasonable amount to cover the cost of replacing sump pumps?

It depends on the materials used and what needs to be done. Each situation is unique and some DOE required health and safety issues may require more funding to be used based on the severity of the concern.

11. If a homeowner has a sump pump with a plastic cover over pump, can these gaps be sealed with Reflectix or does the cover need to be upgraded?

It has to be airtight, rigid and removeable.