OTTAWA WATERPROOFING PRO

City Rebate Program

The City of Ottawa's Residential Protective Plumbing Program: which devices it covers, the maximums, the 18-month rule and its current review

4 Expert Answers from Waterproofing IQ

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Table of Contents

1. Is my Barrhaven house too new for the storm backwater valve rebate?
2. Does Ottawa's sump rebate require the battery backup to qualify?
3. Can a landlord in Vanier claim Ottawa's protective plumbing rebate?
4. Does the 18-month rule start from the permit in Ottawa's rebate program?

Q1

Is my Barrhaven house too new for the storm backwater valve rebate?

The City's storm backwater valve rebate is available only for residential properties built before January 1, 2004. If your Barrhaven home was built on or after that date, it does not qualify for that particular rebate.

The sanitary backwater valve rebate has a later cut-off: the property must have been built before January 1, 2012. So if your home falls between those two dates, you may still qualify for the sanitary rebate even though the storm rebate is off the table.

A few other eligibility points worth knowing before you apply. The rebate covers the lesser of the City's maximum or the actual cost of the work. The work must be complete and the rebate application received within 18 months of the building permit's issue date (the City moved this from 12 months on July 1, 2026). The device cannot have been installed by the City, and rebates are not available for maintenance, repair or replacement of an existing protective plumbing device. The City also lists the program as currently under review, so check ottawa.ca before making any decisions based on it.

If you do qualify, the City's maximum for a storm backwater valve is $2,500 for an outdoor installation, or $1,000 for an indoor one. The sanitary backwater valve maximum is $1,000. A building permit is required before the work starts, and you book the City inspection once the work is done.

If you are not sure of your home's build year, ask the City before you apply.

To reach local Ottawa waterproofing contractors listed in the Ottawa Construction Network directory, use the form on this page.

Q2

Does Ottawa's sump rebate require the battery backup to qualify?

The City's Residential Protective Plumbing Program rebate for a sump pump does require battery backup power to qualify. The program table lists "primary or secondary sump pump with battery backup power" as the eligible item, and a pump without that backup is not on the list.

The rebate amount depends on whether a new pit is also being constructed. A pump with battery backup installed in an existing sump pit qualifies for up to $1,500. If a new sump pit is built at the same time, the maximum rises to $3,000. In both cases, the City rebates the lesser of that maximum or the actual cost of the work. The work must be complete and the rebate application received within 18 months of the building permit's issue date; the City changed

that window from 12 months on July 1, 2026. The City also lists the program as currently under review, so check ottawa.ca before making decisions based on these figures.

A few eligibility points matter here. The property must be a residential property in the City of Ottawa. Rebates are not available for maintenance, repair or replacement of existing protective plumbing devices, so if you are replacing a pump that is already in place rather than installing a new one, ask the City whether your job qualifies before the work starts. The City requires a building permit before the work begins.

The permit fee for plumbing work is $117 per application under the City's 2026 fee schedule, and the program covers 100 per cent of that fee as a separate rebate line. After the work is done and inspected, you pay the contractor, then apply with proof of ownership, the permit, the inspection report, and a paid itemized invoice.

Before booking, ask the contractor to list on the invoice the pump, the battery backup and any new pit as separate lines, since the rebate application asks for a paid, itemized invoice.

Q3

Can a landlord in Vanier claim Ottawa's protective plumbing rebate?

Ottawa's Residential Protective Plumbing Program is for residential properties, and we found no owner-occupancy condition in the City's eligibility list.

That said, the program is listed by the City as currently under review, and the eligibility details on ottawa.ca are the ones that count. A landlord in Vanier who owns a residential property should check the current program page before planning any work around the rebate.

A few things the City's rules do require, regardless of who lives in the property:

- The work must be done on a residential property in the City of Ottawa.
- For a sanitary backwater valve rebate, the building must have been built before January 1, 2012. For a storm backwater valve rebate, before January 1, 2004.
- A building permit must be obtained before the work starts.
- The device must not have been installed by the City.
- Rebates are not available for maintenance, repair or replacement of an existing protective plumbing device.
- The rebate application and all supporting documents must be received within 18 months of the permit's issue date. The City changed this from 12 months on July 1, 2026.

The City rebates the lesser of the published maximum or the actual cost of the work. The maximums from the City's

table are: indoor sanitary backwater valve $1,000, storm backwater valve $1,000, outdoor storm backwater valve $2,500, and a primary or secondary sump pump with battery backup in an existing pit $1,500 or with construction of a new pit $3,000.

Because the program is under review, ask the City whether a rental property qualifies before planning any work around the rebate.

Q4

Does the 18-month rule start from the permit in Ottawa's rebate program?

It does. Under the City of Ottawa's Residential Protective Plumbing Program, the 18-month window runs from the date the building permit is issued, not from the date the work is finished or the inspection is done.

The City changed this from 12 months to 18 months on July 1, 2026. If your permit was issued before that date, ask the City how the change applies to it. The application must be received by the City within that period, along with proof of ownership, the permit, the inspection report, and a paid, itemized invoice from the contractor.

A few other conditions are worth knowing before you count on the rebate. The City rebates the lesser of the maximum amount or the actual cost of the work, so a job that costs less than the maximum gets the lower figure. The property must be residential and located in the City of Ottawa. For a sanitary backwater valve, the building must have been built before January 1, 2012. For a storm backwater valve, before January 1, 2004. The device cannot have been installed by the City, and rebates are not available for maintaining, repairing or replacing an existing device.

The maximum rebates from the City's table are: indoor sanitary backwater valve $1,000; storm backwater valve $1,000; outdoor storm backwater valve $2,500; primary or secondary sump pump with battery backup in an existing pit $1,500; primary or secondary sump pump with battery backup and construction of a new pit $3,000; and the building permit fee (plumbing work only) at 100 per cent of the current fee.

One important caution: the City lists the program as currently under review. Check ottawa.ca before making any financial decisions that depend on receiving a rebate, because the amounts, conditions or the program itself could change.

Before booking the work, ask the contractor who applies for the permit, since the 18-month clock starts on its issue date.

Disclaimer: This guide is provided for informational purposes only by Ottawa Waterproofing Pro. It does not constitute professional advice. Always consult qualified contractors and your local building authority (the City of Ottawa) before starting any waterproofing or foundation project. Some of this work needs a City building permit, and a free locate request is required before any digging. Information is current as of November 8, 2026 and may change. Visit **ottawawaterproofingpro.com** for the latest answers.