



HOME TEAM REALTY

Troy and Marie Stay Dry

Looks like we may be in for another wet fall. Luckily, there are some products that can help keep your home dry in the upcoming deluge. John Yates, manager of Vashon's local True Value store, has some suggestions for supplies and equipment that might work for your particular soggy situation.

Troy: John, I'm guessing sump pumps are a popular item this time of year.

Marie: What exactly is a "sump"?

Troy: Well, Marie, I'm glad you asked. The word "sump" stems from the Middle English word for swamp, which is *sompe*. It's basically a depression that collects water so it can more easily be pumped out.

Marie: Thank you, Cliff Claven. John, what if someone does have a leaky basement? Besides running a pump to empty it out, is there any way to patch it while it's raining?

John: Actually, yes. We carry several brands of a hydraulic cement product that create a watertight seal in just minutes. These products can be applied even while the water is flowing.

Troy: Amazing. It's good to know that these products exist, but it still would not be much fun to have to climb into your cold and flooded basement to patch it up. A good drainage system around the house would avoid the problem in the first place.

John: That's true. These products are not designed to withstand serious water pressure from flooding.

Marie: This whole conversation reminds me to remind people to take a look at their gutters. People, make sure that the water from your gutters is diverted away from the house with a non-perforated drainage system to avoid dumping it against the foundation of the house.

Troy: That's right. Speaking of roof water, that's obviously another area prone to problems during heavy rains. What do you recommend for patching a leaking roof?

John: We sell some wet patch roof cement that can be applied when it's wet. One kind is black and tarry and comes in gallons, quarts, and tubes. We also sell a kind that's totally clear, which is a great option for patch jobs where you really don't want it to be visible. It's a product called Through the Roof.

Marie: Very clever. Getting back to the basement for a minute, can you waterproof your basement just by painting it with a waterproof product of some sort?

John: Not really. We do carry some masonry waterproofing products that say they can withstand 10 pounds of pressure per square inch, but I still recommend a good drainage system.

Troy: And when all else fails, a good set of rubber boots. Thanks for the suggestions, John.