



Home Preparedness Checklist: Flooding

Follow these precautions to protect your home from flood damage:

- ☐ **Check your flood insurance coverage**
 - Look into flood insurance options with your insurance provider—protection from flood damage probably isn't included as part of your basic home insurance coverage.
 - If you have a sump pump, backwater valve, or have taken other flood protection measures, inform your insurer. Your rates could be reduced.
- ☐ **Create and maintain an emergency plan and kit**
 - Assemble and maintain an emergency kit.
 - Select an evacuation route and meeting point. Ensure each family member knows the location.
- ☐ **Seal up your basement**
 - Seal basement walls and floors with waterproofing compounds.
 - Cover window wells.
- ☐ **Protect valuables and important documents**
 - Avoid storing valuables in your basement. Store your most valuable or sentimental items on the highest floor possible.
 - Make virtual or physical copies of your most important photos and documents.
- ☐ **Inspect and maintain your roof**
 - Have a professional inspect your roof every few years to ensure everything is sealed.
 - Replace missing shingles and chimney caps as needed.
- ☐ **Repair windows and doors to prevent water infiltration**
 - Repair any gaps or cracks in your window and door frames.
 - Check seals around windows to prevent water infiltration, which can damage your home's foundation, frame, and insulation.
- ☐ **Ensure your property drains water properly**
 - Check that your lawn and property grading slopes away from your home.



☐ **Maintain your eavestrough and downspout systems**

- Clear gutters twice a year to remove debris that can cause backup and flooding.
- Routinely run a hose through gutters to check flow. If there's standing water, adjust the gutters to slope toward the downspout.
- Trim trees to prevent leaves from clogging gutters.
- Ensure downspouts direct water at least two metres (six feet) away from the foundation.
- Connect rain barrels to downspouts to collect runoff and reduce flash flood risks.

☐ **Create a rain garden**

- Install a rain garden to slow down, collect, and filter rainwater.
- Use mulch, layers of soil, and plants that tolerate wet environments.

☐ **Install and maintain a sump pump with battery backup**

- A sump pump redirects water away from your home during heavy rainfall or snowmelt. don't have one? Talk to a professional about your options.
- Check on it regularly to ensure the pump activates when water reaches a certain level in the pit.
- Verify the pump can operate during power outages using the battery backup.

☐ **Install a backwater valve**

- A backwater valve will prevent sewage backup during flooding.

☐ **Have flood barriers on hand**

- Keep sandbags or doorway flood barriers ready to divert water around buildings.

☐ **Secure outside fuel tanks**

- Ensure any outside fuel tank is properly secured to prevent damage or spills.

☐ **Raise or relocate critical utilities and appliances**

- Relocate or elevate HVAC, outlets, water heater, and other major appliances.
- Ensure these are above potential flood levels to reduce recovery costs and ensure continued functionality during a flood.