



Protecting your home against Floods



We know that wet weather and storm surges can lead to floods and these can cause damage to your home, so we've got some useful tips to help you prepare.

How to plan for a flood...

If you know your home is at risk of being flooded, it's a good idea to create a flood plan.

- ✓ Think about where you're going to stay, who you're going to stay with and how you're going to get there. Remember local B&Bs and hotels will get booked up very quickly.
- ✓ If you have pets, find out if there are kennels nearby that will stay on dry ground.
- ✓ Don't forget to take any school books or albums from beneath coffee tables or lower shelves.
- ✓ Make digital copies of everything well in advance so that it's backed up.
- ✓ Make sure you have the receipts and manuals for appliances stored somewhere safe.
- ✓ Before you move anything, take photos and make an inventory of everything you take to higher ground.



Preventing further damage to your home

- ✓ The moisture and humidity from flood water can damage previously unaffected rooms. When you're at home, you should open all your windows to get air flowing through the house.
- ✓ At the same time, close all the doors to unaffected rooms.
- ✓ Take extra precautions before you do this to protect any valuables.
- ✓ Your garden is likely to be badly damaged, and may contain debris from the surrounding neighbourhood. Wait until waters have gone down to safe levels before beginning to clear it.
- ✓ Once water levels are down, remove carpets that have been damaged. But don't dispose of them: your insurer will need them to see the impact of the flood.
- ✓ Most of all, be patient with the flood management professionals who are getting your home back to the way it was – but don't be afraid to ask for regular updates.
- ✓ The drying out process can be long and frustrating, but it needs to be done in order to minimise damage.



Outside the home

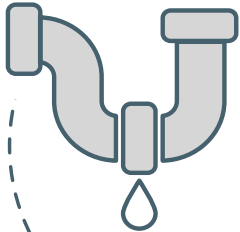
Gardens

Clear away any ornaments, furniture or plants that could be damaged by flooding.



Drains

Are they draining well? Installing a non-return valve could help prevent flood damage.



Guttering and pipes

Ensure your guttering and pipes are free from blockages, leaves and debris.

Doors and windows

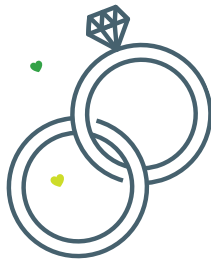
Would flood doors, storm shutters or impact resistant glass help?

Sandbags

Your local council may be able to help you with some sandbags too.



Inside the home

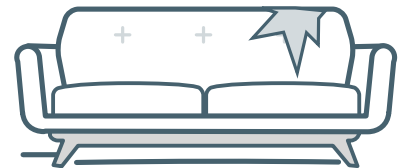


Valuables and important documents (like insurance!)

Keep them safe by locking them away, ideally in a watertight container.

Furniture

If it can't be moved upstairs, protect with plastic or cling film, especially legs made of wood.



Electrical appliances

Unplug non-essentials and store them upstairs if possible. Gas, electric and water – know how to switch them off.



Electrical sockets

Consider raising low-level sockets, especially in high risk areas.

Emergency kit

It's a good idea to have some essentials ready - like canned food, water, a torch, batteries, first aid kit, blankets, waterproof clothing, insurance details & emergency numbers (council, GP, etc.) - and make sure mobile phones are fully charged.

Temporary power

Is it worth considering an alternative source of power, like a generator, for short term use?

