

TYPES OF FLOODING

As shown below, there are different types of flooding that you could be at risk from. Reporting a flood to the correct agency/authority who are responsible for managing the risk, enables the cause to be investigated.

1. RIVER FLOODING

Report to: the Environment Agency



River flooding, also known as fluvial flooding, occurs when the capacity of a river's channel is exceeded as a result of intense or sustained rainfall across the catchment.

Image: The Flood Hub

2. GROUNDWATER FLOODING

Report to: the Lead Local Flood Authority



Groundwater flooding occurs when the water table rises up to the surface during a prolonged wet period. Low lying areas, areas near aquifers and properties with cellars or basements are more likely to experience groundwater flooding.

Image: The Flood Hub

3. SURFACE WATER FLOODING

Report to: the Lead Local Flood Authority



Surface water flooding happens when the amount of rainfall exceeds the capacity of drainage systems or the ability of the land to absorb the water, causing it to flow over the ground. Blocked drains and sewers can increase the risk of surface water flooding as the water has nowhere to go.

Image: The Flood Hub

4. COASTAL FLOODING

Report to: the Environment Agency



Coastal flooding happens when the sea floods onto the land. The most common cause of coastal flooding in the UK is storm surges in conjunction with high tides, where the storm wind creates higher than normal waves.

Image: The Flood Hub

5. SEWER FLOODING

Report to: the Water Company or Internal Drainage Board (IDB)



Most sewer flooding incidents are the result of overloaded sewers following heavy rainfall, or due to blockages caused by misuse of the sewer system such as flushing unsuitable items down the toilet.

Image: The Flood Hub

6. RESERVOIR FLOODING

Report to: the Environment Agency



Reservoir flooding can be similar to river and surface water flooding if the water escapes slowly. However, in the unlikely event of the dam wall failing, a large amount of water could escape. It could happen with little or no warning and you may need to evacuate immediately.

Image: The Flood Hub

7. CANAL FLOODING

Report to: The Canal and River Trust



Canal flooding occurs when the level of water in the canal is too high and overtops. Canal flooding is rare, but even with the best controls in place there can sometimes be too much water to manage.

Image: The Flood Hub