



# HELPING TO REDUCE FLOOD RISK

Many things can affect the risk of flooding, but individuals and community groups can be aware of certain factors to help manage and reduce flood risk in their area.



## AUTUMN LEAVES

**Clear autumn leaves from household gutters and drains. Check local highway gullies and remove surface leaves where possible. Report internal blockages through to the highways department.**



## WATERCOURSE BLOCKAGES

**Obstructions that may block or alter the flow of water should be reported. This includes fallen trees, build up of sediment after heavy rainfall, collapsed banks, and non-consented alterations to watercourses such as bridges or garden features like decking.**



## FLY-TIPPING

**Check local watercourses for fly-tipping or other obstructions and report any incidents to the appropriate Risk Management Authority or landowner.**



## GARDEN WASTE

**Dispose of grass cuttings, hedge clippings, leaves, branches, weeds and dead plants in your garden green waste bin or by composting. This prevents them from entering drains and watercourses which could cause blockages.**



Image: Northumbrian Water

## THE 3 P'S

**Wet wipes (even 'flushable' wipes), cotton buds, nappies and sanitary products should not be flushed down the toilet. The only items that can be flushed are toilet paper, pee and poo (The 3 p's).**



Image: Scottish Water

## FATS, OILS & GREASE

**After meals ensure that fats, oils, grease, food waste and scraps are disposed in the bin or compost and not down the kitchen sink. Use sink strainers and fat traps to help collect food scraps and fats.**