

Sue and Rob in Lancashire

Detached two-storey house Flooded in 2015

Sue and Rob bought their 1930's detached house in 1986. The house was first surrounded by floods in 1995 and following that, a further 14 times, until they flooded internally during Storm Desmond in December 2015. They believe that the void of the house will have flooded on every previous occasion but as the water didn't come above the floor boards, it was not classed as an internal flood.

They said that the repair process was extremely stressful and traumatic, with a lot of the work being of an extremely poor standard and much of which had to be redone. To this day, they feel that they haven't got their home back to the standard it was before the floods, a fact they find extremely upsetting. They said the whole experience has left them depressed and traumatized. Sadly, during the repair process, they were flooded again and because of this, they didn't get back into their home again until the end of April 2017!

They decided to make their home resilient, as it felt like common sense and they didn't want anyone else who lived in the house after them, to suffer as they had.

The cause of the flood now has a bund along it's sides.



Top Tip
Keep an emergency kit filled with everything you may need for loss of power, such as torch, matches, camping stove, soup, hand sanitiser etc.

Top Tip
Use waders, waterproofs and walking poles if you have to walk in flood water, as pavements lose definition during a flood.

Sue and Rob's detached house was first surrounded by floods in 1995 and following that, a further 14 times.

Flood resilient work included:

- A pump is under the floor to pump any flood water outside.
- Closed cell insulation under the floor.
- A waterproof sub floor membrane (which can cope with being under water for 30 days) and then an engineered oak floor finish on top.
- Cavity wall insulation replaced with water proof insulation.
- Cement render to the walls.
- Electric sockets further up the walls, wires now come down the walls.
- Waterproof rendering was applied underground to the foundations and 30cm (12") above ground.
- Water resistant spray to walls above the render.
- Self-closing air bricks.
- Barriers to all external doors.
- French Windows have flood guards fitted.
- Exit points for waste pipes have all been sealed.
- Rooms without floor voids have been raised, concreted and have been tiled with ceramic tiles.
- The kitchen is on legs with removable kick boards.
- They have 2 puddle sucker pumps (which can pump down to 2mm of water), a spare pump and a generator.
- Rob has built a wall with substantial foundations in the garden.
- They have non-return valves fitted to the sewers.
- White goods are raised up on plinths.
- Shower, sink and washing machine have separate non-return valves.

The village also now benefits from a flood alleviation scheme.



Self-closing air bricks and waterproof rendering was applied underground to the foundations and 30cm (12") above ground.



Wall with substantial foundations in the garden.



A waterproof sub floor membrane with an engineered oak floor on top.



Electric sockets further up the walls, barriers to all external doors and non-return valves fitted.



White goods are raised up.



The kitchen is on legs with removable kick boards.