

UNDERSTANDING FLOOD BARRIERS

Flood barrier systems play a crucial role in protecting properties from water damage during flood events. These systems can be installed in various locations including: doorways, windows, garages, garden gateways and driveway entrances. Choosing the right type of flood barrier requires consideration of factors such as the property's layout, drainage, entrance design and potential impact on neighbouring properties.

TYPES OF FLOOD BARRIERS:

Aluminium Barrier Systems

- Utilise lightweight aluminium sections slotted into channels.
- Apply downward pressure using compression blocks for a seal with the floor.
- Grub screws create a seal between each barrier board and the channel.
- Optional channel covers for aesthetic purposes and protection.



UPVC Door Systems

- Create a seal with the sill or thresher plate on UPVC doors.
- Channels can be affixed to the wall or to the UPVC frame.
- Requires well-sealed frame and sill plate for effectiveness.



Expanding Barriers

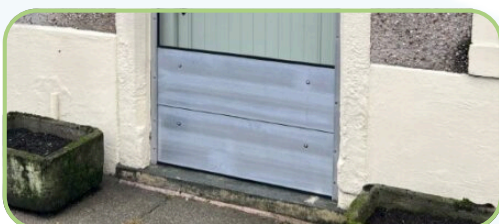
- Installed within the doorway reveal on inward-opening doors.
- Expands within the reveal to create a seal with the floor and masonry.
- Requires a square entrance area with a flat threshold and deep enough doorway reveals.



TYPES OF BARRIER INSTALLATION:

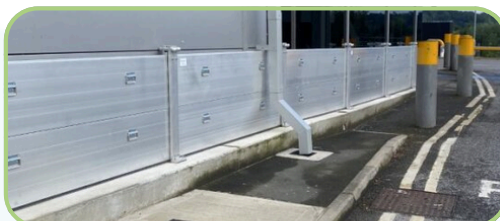
Doorway Installation:

- Choose between "face-fix" (front wall) or "reveal-fix" (inside walls) installation based on entrance area.
- Be aware that reveal-fix installation may narrow the width of the entrance slightly.



Perimeter Defences:

- Ensure the property has an adequate perimeter wall.
- Consider the potential redirection of water and its impact on neighbouring properties.
- Further guidance is recommended when considering boundary perimeter defences.



Internal Installation:

- Consider inside flood barriers for doorways; consult an experienced installer.
- Ensure a strong seal with masonry by maintaining consistent ground and wall contact; may involve removing plaster for effectiveness.

INSTALLATION CONSIDERATIONS:

Remedial Work:

- Remedial work may be required on walls, steps, and thresholds to ensure a watertight seal.
- Consider the pressure exerted by floodwater on external walls when determining the safe height for barrier installation. Guidance recommends a safe standard height of up to 600mm (2ft). For higher flood barriers, further considerations may be required, including a structural survey in some cases.

Escape Routes:

- Plan an emergency escape route, considering inward-opening doors for external barriers to allow access to and from the property during flood conditions.
- External barriers on outward-opening doors may close off potential escape routes.

Physical Capability:

- Property owners should be physically capable of carrying out barrier installation when anticipating a flood.
- Consider the weight and handling requirements of the chosen flood barrier system.

Storage Precautions:

- Proper storage of barrier sections is crucial to avoid damage to rubber seals.
- Ensure adequate storage conditions to maintain the integrity of the barrier components.

Rubber Seal Maintenance:

- Regular maintenance of rubber seals within channels and on barrier sections is essential.
- Rubber seals may perish over time, necessitating replacement for continued effectiveness.

For more information on the maintenance of property flood resilience (PFR), visit:

<https://thefloodhub.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Property-Flood-Resilience-Health-Check.pdf>

Choosing the right flood barrier system involves careful consideration of property specifics and potential installation challenges.

Seek professional advice to ensure the most effective flood protection tailored to your property's needs. Regular maintenance and proper installation are key factors in maximising the effectiveness of flood barriers and safeguarding your property against water damage.

For more information on property flood resilience (PFR), visit:

<https://thefloodhub.co.uk/pfr/>