



HOUSEHOLD FLOOD PLANNING



There may be very little warning or no time to prepare for a flood, especially if you live in an area that is at risk of surface water flooding and where flash flooding occurs. By creating a flood plan, valuable time can be saved when a flood is expected, by having all the relevant and useful information you need in one easily accessible place, providing clear instruction on how to respond.

Important Contacts

Having an updated contact list in your flood plan ensures quick access to important numbers before, during, or after a flood. Make sure to include:

- Flood Advice/Risk: Call Environment Agency's Floodline: 0345 988 1188.
- Report a Flood: Call Incident Hotline: 0800 80 70 60.
- Utility Suppliers: Gas, electricity and water.
- Local Council: Info on emergency centres and resources.
- Local Radio: Stay updated with news and weather.
- Family, friends and neighbours.
- Insurance Company: Call to ensure valid claims.
- Landlord.

Environment Agency Flood Alerts and Warnings

These flood warnings can be used as a trigger to put your flood plan into action, so it is important to understand what each warning means and decide what actions to take at each stage.

Flood alert - Flooding is possible

At this stage, you should ensure that you stay vigilant and make early preparations for a potential flood. There is the possibility that your flood plan may need to be put into action.

Flood Warning - Flooding is expected

At this stage, immediate action is required to protect yourself and your property. Many people use this stage as a trigger to put your flood plan into action.

Severe Flood Warning - Severe flooding is expected

There is a significant risk to life and property. Prepare to evacuate and cooperate with the emergency services.



It is also useful to have an evacuation plan included in your flood plan. This should contain details of where to go if you need to evacuate, including the address and contact details of an emergency assistance centre if known.

Household Flood Planning Checklist

- Create a household flood plan.
- Sign up to receive free Environment agency flood alerts and warnings if possible and understand what they mean.
- Set up alternative flood warning triggers, as EA alerts only cover main rivers and sea flooding.
- Investigate property flood resilience options
- Check that your insurance covers flood damage.
- Put important documents in a safe place away from flood risk.
- Make a flood kit.
- Ensure your pets are microchipped and consider where you can send them if you need to evacuate.

Utility Supplies

The location of your utility supplies should be noted down along with instructions on how to switch them off. Turning them off before flood water enters your house will prevent further damage should a flood occur.

Flood Kit Checklist

Having a flood kit prepared prior to the event of a flood can be very helpful should you need to evacuate. The flood kit should be composed of essential items you will need if you're going to be away from your home for a few days. Recommended items include:

- Warm and waterproof clothing and blankets
- Medication and a first aid kit
- Bottled drinking water and food
- Purse/wallets including cash and cards
- Important documents such as insurance documents
- Mobile phones and chargers
- Torch and extra batteries if necessary
- Camera to take photos of damage
- Toys for children
- Pet toys and pet food
- Rubber gloves and wellingtons
- Keys