

Local Interventions to Reduce Surface Water Flooding



As development covers the land with hard surfaces, its ability to drain surface water naturally is reduced. So what can be done in communities to better protect them from the threat of surface water flooding?

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

- SuDS aim to simulate natural drainage in order to manage rainfall close to where it falls.
- As gardens get covered with tarmac or concrete, housing extensions, patios and conservatories, the green spaces which allow natural surface water drainage are reduced.
- By introducing **permeable paving, water butts, rain gardens, green roofs, soakaways** and **attenuation ponds** to our properties, we increase green space and contribute to local flood management.
- On a larger scale, you've probably seen SuDS in towns or in the street, but you may be unaware that they are surface water drainage schemes.
- **Swales, tree pits, detention basins**, underground **geo-cellular attenuation** and **wetlands** may look inconspicuous but are important for reducing surface water flooding and providing space for water.



Jane Dickson - A neighbour's shed with green roof - CC BY-SA 2.0



Image: The Flood Hub

Residents

- **Flood risk maps** are able to identify which parts of towns or streets are at risk from surface water flooding, and can also show an approximate extent and depth of flooding:
<https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/long-term-flood-risk>
- Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) are responsible for managing the flood risk of surface water flooding and may hold more detailed information.
- Surface water flooding can happen quickly and there may be no time to respond. Passive **property flood resilience (PFR)** measures such as flood doors or self closing air bricks eliminate the need to physically install PFR measures in an emergency.
- Take a few minutes to **check that local highway gullies are clear** and working properly, brush away any detritus if necessary.
- Highway roads, footpaths, drains and gullies are the responsibility of the local highway authority which is either the County Council or the Unitary Authority. **Report any blockages or collapses.**



Image of flood risk map: .gov.uk
Image of map: Met Office



Image: The Flood Hub