Flood Resistance & Flood Resilience

Flood Resistance

Adopting a flood resistant approach prevents or reduces the amount of water that may enter a building. There are a number of routes in which floodwater can enter a property. Water can enter through doors, through air bricks or cracks in exposed walls, through gaps in the floor and through drains, pipes and service entry points.

A number of flood resistant measures can be put in place to try and prevent water entering a building.

- Flood doors or flood door barriers can prevent water from entering a building.
- Non-return valves can be fitted to drains and pipes to prevent sewage flowing back through pipes
- Gardens can be made more flood resistant by installing flood barriers and flood gates to prevent water entering, or landscaped to divert water away.
- Brickwork can be made more water resistant by repointing any cracks, applying water resistant paints and coatings, installing self closing air bricks/air brick covers.

Flood Resilience

Flood resilient design and construction reduces the impacts of flood water which enters a building. Using materials that perform well in flood conditions means that no permanent damage is caused, structural integrity is maintained and drying and cleaning is easier. All these things allow quicker reoccupation of the building.

A number of flood resilient measures can be put in place to reduce flood damage.

- Raise electric sockets above the likely height of flood water. On the ground floor feed electric cables down from the floor above.
- Water resistant materials can be used in kitchens and bathrooms such as stainless steel, plastic or solid wood. White goods can be raised off the ground to protect against low level flooding.
- Valuable items should be stored upstairs or placed on high shelves/fixed to walls downstairs
- Replace fitted carpets with tiles or timber floors with treated wood or concrete. If possible raise the floor level and height of the threshold to the property entrance.

Ideally properties in flood risk areas should consider both resilience and resistance measures. This will reduce the impact of future floods.

It is also important that all properties at risk of flooding have a trigger to warn of potential flooding such as flood warnings from the Environment Agency as well as having a flood plan.

www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings

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Working in partnership with the Environment Agency

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