

Household Flood Planning

There may be very little warning or time to prepare for a flood, especially if you live in an area 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 which provides clear instruction on how to respond.

Your household flood plan should include...

A checklist

This contains steps to check off once you have finished your flood plan.

- Sign up to Environment Agency flood alerts and warnings and understand what they mean.
- Check that your home insurance covers flooding.
- Make a floodkit using the floodkit checklist.
- Place important documents (passports, birth certificates, insurance documents, etc.) in a safe place out of flood risk.
- Investigate property flood options for your property. Make sure you consider both flood resistant and flood resilience methods.
- Make a schedule to keep property flood resilience (PFR) measures/products maintained.

Gas, electricity and water supply details

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



Important contacts

A general list of contacts should be recorded and kept up to date. This list may be useful should you have to evacuate your house. Important contacts may include:

- Family and friends who may be able to help you.
- The Environment Agency's Floodline
- **0345 988 1188**
- Your gas, electricity and water suppliers
- Your local radio station to keep you regularly updated
- Insurance company
- Local Authority



Environment Agency flood alerts and warnings

These flood warnings can be used as a trigger to put your flood plan into action and 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.

Floodkit and 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 checklist 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
Medications 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 any damage for your insurance company
Toys for children
Pet toys and pet food
Rubber gloves and wellingtons
Keys.

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

