

Flood Advice

A flood is coming! What do I do?

- Be prepared to evacuate your home or business. Protect yourself, your family and others that need your help.
- Have warm clothing and Wellingtons, food, phone charger and a torch ready.
- Have medication to hand (if needed). **If so don't forget to take it with you.**
- Make a list of children's essentials that you will have to bring with you if you are evacuated. For example milk, baby food, sterilised bottles, nappies, a favourite teddy or toy.
- If time permits store any electrical items, valuable furniture other items upstairs or above flood level.
- Turn off gas and electricity.
- Co-operate with emergency services and local authorities. You may be evacuated to emergency centres.

HOW CAN I PREPARE FOR FLOODS AND MUCH MORE INFORMATION SEE

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HOW CAN I PREPARE FOR FLOODS?

- Keep a list of emergency numbers close to the phone, or stored in the memory of your phone or mobile.
- Does anyone in your family need medication? **If so don't forget to take it with you.**
- Gas and electricity. Make sure you know where the shut off points are. Could you find them in the dark?
- Make up a flood kit and ensure everyone knows where to find it. Your flood kit should consist of a torch, some warm and waterproof clothes, a battery or wind up radio, rubber gloves, Wellington boots, a first aid kit and blankets.
- Make a list of children's essentials that you will have to bring with you if you are evacuated. For example – milk, baby food, sterilised bottles, nappies, a favourite teddy or toy.
- Think about which of your possessions are most valuable to you, including expensive items, but also more importantly, those things that money can't replace, such as photo albums, family heirlooms, etc. List the items out and make sure you know where these things are so that if a flood comes, you can move them quickly to safety.
- Have a prearranged place that you can safely move your car to if you have time.

- If you have to evacuate do you have somewhere to go, and will you be able to get there, bearing in mind that some roads might be blocked by the flood?
- If you have elderly or disabled family members in the house, how might you get them out safely?
- Don't forget your pets. Ensure you have somewhere safe for them to go. If you are evacuated can you keep them with you or will they need to be kept elsewhere?
- There are a number of actions you can take immediately before a flood that can reduce or prevent some of the flood damage. Think about these actions. Which are relevant to you? Which might you be able to achieve if a flood is imminent? Which would be your priorities?
- Practice your flood plan. Make sure that everyone knows what has to be done and what it is safe to do.

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- Move valuables and other items to safety. Place them above the flood level or upstairs. (It may be preferable to routinely store such items safely upstairs or on high shelves).
- Put sandbags at any openings where the water could gain access.
- Roll up carpets and rugs and place them out of harm's way.
- Empty furniture that cannot be moved and put the contents upstairs.
- Raise furniture that cannot be moved elsewhere on bricks or blocks. Move these pieces away from walls to assist the drying later. If pieces are too difficult to lift weigh them down with a heavy object to prevent them floating and causing damage to windows, etc.
- Remove curtains if there is time, if not tie them over the curtain rail.
- Remove cabinet doors and internal doors if time allows, if not leave them open.
- Turn off gas and electricity.
- Disconnect cookers, washing machines, dishwashers, etc., connected by ridged pipes to prevent damaging the machine and the pipes.
- Store any electrical items upstairs or above flood level.
- Be prepared to evacuate your home or business. Protect yourself, your family and others that need your help.
- Have warm clothing and Wellingtons ready.
- Have medication to hand (if needed).
- Check water/food stocks.
- Co-operate with emergency services and local authorities. You may be evacuated to emergency centres.

Outside your house

- Move your car to high ground if possible.
- Move any items kept outside such as garden furniture to higher ground. Remember that floodwater could get into your garage so move

any chemicals or fuel to ensure that they do not spill into the floodwater and cause damage.

- Weigh down any manhole covers with sandbags or heavy objects. These could open during a flood and cause a hazard.
- Close off the flow valves on propane tanks, oil drums, or other fuel containers that supply your home through pipes and fittings.
- Unplug any exterior electrical connections such as outdoor lighting, pond pumps and filters.
- Turn off the water supply to the garden.
- Tie in climbing plants.
- Check tree ties are secure on any newly planted trees.
- Anchor fruit cages and coldframes against storm damage or dismantle them if time permits.
- Take valuable or sentimental items and store them indoors or move them to higher ground.
- Move treasured border plants to high beds, plant stands or heavy containers.
- Empty petrol lawn mowers.
- Lock gardening tools away.
- Use sandbags or floodboards on greenhouses and sheds.
- Harvest any crops that can be ripened indoors, such as tomatoes.

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