



## Preparing For A Flood – Reduce The Effects Of Flooding On You And Your Property.

The monetary cost of the damage caused by a flood can run into thousands of pounds, not to mention the stress and inconvenience caused to you. This fact sheets gives some advice on how to prepare for a flood so that you reduce the effects of flooding on you and your property.

### Flood Warning Codes

Flood warning codes are issued by the Environment Agency and can be found on local news and weather forecasts, the [environment agency website](#), Teletext and Ceefax or by phoning “Floodline” on 0845 988 1188. There are four different flood codes and they can be issued in any order

#### *Flood Watch*

This means that flooding of low lying land and roads is expected and that you should be prepared. Be aware of the water levels in your area and monitor local news bulletins for updates. Check the safety of your pets and livestock and charge your mobile phone so that you are prepared to act on your flood plan if necessary.

#### *Flood Warning*

Issued when flooding of homes & business is expected and you should act immediately. Move vulnerable people, pets, food and valuables to safety, get your flood protection in

place, turn off gas, electricity and water supplies if safe to do so and be prepared to evacuate your home. Protect yourself and your family and only help others if you are not endangering yourself.

#### *Severe Flood Warning*

The highest warning issued – severe flooding is expected with an extreme danger to life and property. Turn off gas, electricity and water supplies if safe to do so, avoid any other electricity sources, do not walk or drive through flood water and move to a high place with a means of escape. Collect items that you would need for evacuation and call 999 immediately if you are in danger.

#### *All Clear*

No flood warnings are in force in your area. You should keep listening to news and weather reports in case this changes. If flooding has occurred, beware of sharp objects and pollution in flood water and only return to evacuated buildings if you are told it is safe to do so. Contact your insurers to report and damage to your property and/or belongings and ask their advice before starting the clean up.

### Have Flood Protection Equipment

Flood protection equipment can help stop flood water. If you receive a flood warning, try putting the following measures in place



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### *Sandbags*

These may be provided by your local council during a flood but will probably be scarce. You can buy your own sand and bags or fill pillowcases and plastic bags with earth. Remember, following a flood they will be contaminated by sewage in the water.

### *Plastic Airbrick Covers*

These can stop flood water coming in through your airbricks.

### *Floodboards*

These fix to frames around windows and doors. They can be washed, stored and used again.

Always remember to remove flood protection once the flood water has gone as this will help your property dry out.

### **Further Steps To Protect Your Property**

You can do other things to your property which will make it easier and cheaper to clean up after a flood however these are likely to cost more and take longer to put in place

- Lay ceramic tiles on your ground floor and use rugs instead of carpets
- Raise socks to 1.5m above ground level
- Use lime plaster instead of gypsum on walls
- Fit stainless steel or plastic kitchens rather than chipboard

- Position any main parts of a heating or ventilation system (e.g. a boiler) upstairs.
- Fit non-return valves to drains and water inlet pipes
- Replace wooden windows and doors with synthetic ones.

### **Create A Flood Plan**

In the event of the worst happening, you need to know what to do, who to contact and how to contact them. Creating a flood plan before a flood happens means that you are not scrambling around trying to find important documents and telephone numbers. A flood plan checklist can be downloaded from our website [here](#).

### **Further Information**

Environment Agency – 08708 506 506

Floodline – 0845 988 1188

[www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

National Flood Forum – 01299 403 055

[www.floodforum.org.uk](http://www.floodforum.org.uk)

Met Office – 0870 900 0100

[www.metoffice.gov.uk](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk)

CIRIA (Flood Resilience) – 020 7549 3300

[www.ciria.org/flooding](http://www.ciria.org/flooding)