

Flood Preparedness Plan

Flooding is one of the most common and dangerous natural disasters. Proper preparation can significantly reduce risks and improve safety. This checklist will help you create a flood preparedness plan to protect your home, family, and belongings.

1. Before a Flood - Preparation Steps

- ☐ Know your flood risk by checking FEMA flood maps for your area
- ☐ Sign up for local emergency alerts and weather warnings
- ☐ Prepare an emergency kit with food, water, medications, and essentials
- ☐ Have a family evacuation plan and designate meeting points
- ☐ Store important documents in a waterproof and fireproof container
- ☐ Ensure your insurance covers flood damage (standard policies may not)
- ☐ Install check valves in plumbing to prevent floodwater backup
- ☐ Elevate electrical outlets, appliances, and utilities above flood level
- ☐ Keep emergency contact numbers handy, including local shelters
- ☐ If you live in a flood-prone area, consider flood barriers or sandbags

2. During a Flood - Safety Measures

- ☐ Follow local emergency alerts and evacuation orders
- ☐ If evacuation is required, leave immediately and avoid delays
- ☐ Move to higher ground if you are in a flood-prone area
- ☐ Turn off electricity and gas before floodwaters reach your home
- ☐ Never walk or drive through floodwaters - even 6 inches can sweep you away
- ☐ Keep children and pets indoors and away from floodwaters
- ☐ If trapped in a building, move to the highest floor and call for help
- ☐ Avoid contact with floodwater as it may contain sewage and debris
- ☐ Use a battery-powered radio to stay updated on emergency information
- ☐ Have an emergency go-bag ready in case you must leave quickly

3. After a Flood - Recovery & Cleanup

- ☐ Wait for authorities to declare your area safe before returning home
- ☐ Check your home for structural damage before entering
- ☐ Use protective gear (gloves, boots, masks) when cleaning up flood damage
- ☐ Throw away food, water, or medications exposed to floodwater
- ☐ Disinfect all surfaces and remove standing water to prevent mold growth
- ☐ Document property damage with photos for insurance claims
- ☐ Check for gas leaks or electrical hazards before turning power back on
- ☐ Contact FEMA or local disaster relief agencies if you need assistance
- ☐ Boil tap water until authorities confirm it is safe to drink
- ☐ Monitor your health for any illness related to flood exposure

Flood safety starts with preparation. Stay informed, stay safe!