

Protect Your Property

CORE ACTION MESSAGES

- Build with flooding in mind.
- Protect important papers and equipment.

If you are at risk from floods, you should:

- **Avoid building in a floodplain unless you elevate and reinforce your home.** Some communities do not permit building in known floodplains. If there are no restrictions and you are building in a floodplain, take precautions to make it less likely your home will be damaged during a flood.
- **Keep insurance policies, documents, and other valuables in a safe-deposit box.** You may need quick, easy access to these documents. Keep them in a safe place less likely to be damaged during a flood.
- **Raise your furnace, water heater, and electric panel to higher floors or the attic if they are in areas of your home that may be flooded.** Raising this equipment will prevent damage. An undamaged water heater may be your best source of fresh water after a flood.
- **Install check valves in plumbing to prevent floodwater from backing up into the drains of your home.** As a last resort, when floods threaten, use large corks or stoppers to plug showers, tubs, or basins.
- **Construct barriers such as levees, berms, and flood walls to stop floodwater from entering the building.** Permission to construct such barriers may be required by local building codes. Check local building codes and ordinances for safety requirements.
- **Seal walls in basements with waterproofing compounds to avoid seepage through cracks.**
- **Consult with a construction professional for further information about these and other damage-reduction measures.** Check local building codes and ordinances for safety requirements.
- **Contact your local emergency management office for more information on mitigation options to further reduce potential flood damage.** Your local emergency management office may be able to provide additional resources and information on ways to reduce potential damage.
- **Ensure that any outbuildings, pastures, or corrals are protected in the same way as your home.** When installing or changing fence lines, consider placing them in such a way that your animals are able to move to higher ground in the event of flooding.

Sand Bags

If flooding is expected, consider using sand bags to keep water away from your home. It takes two people about one hour to fill and place 100 sandbags, giving you a wall one foot (0.3 meter) high and 20 feet (6 meters) long. Make sure you have enough sand, burlap or plastic bags, shovels, strong helpers, and time to place them properly.