

Checklist: How to Prevent Flood Damage

A flood can quickly devastate your home, leaving you overwhelmed by the damage. Unfortunately, without the right flood preparations, the effects of a flood can linger for months and years.

5 Ways to Prepare Your Home For Flooding

Steps you can take when flooding could happen soon.

- **1. Install a Sump Pump:** If water enters your home, a sump pump can help you to get it out. When choosing a model, consider your square footage and the volume of water you could face. With an integrated backup battery, you can still pump more than 2,000 gallons of water per hour during an outage.
- **2. Address Gutters and Exterior Drainage:** Even just three inches of rain on a 1,200-square-foot roof can yield 1,243 gallons of water. If your gutters are clogged with leaves and debris, the water could flow right into the foundation of your house, seeping into your basement, crawl space, or the lower level of your home.
- **3. Use Smart Water Sensors:** Technology can help you manage a flood. With sensors and a smartphone app, you could know where water is entering your home and at what level it's reaching.
- **4. Elevate or Protect Possessions:** When facing heavy rains, consider how flooding could damage your valuables or possessions.
- **5. Install Backflow Valves on Drains:** A backflow valve on your plumbing can prevent a water-logged sewer or septic system from flowing backward into your home.

4 Important Ways to Prevent Flood Damage

Long-term strategy for fortification and mitigation.

- **1. Add a Flood Vent to Equalize Water Pressure:** During a storm surge, the foundation of your home could cave in or collapse, but flood vents can equalize the water pressure. In flood-prone areas, your insurance or building codes may even require it.
- **2. Elevate Utilities:** Damaged utilities and appliances can be expensive. You can protect these utility systems by raising them off the ground on concrete or doing rewiring.
- **3. Add an Interior French Drain:** An interior drainage system in your basement can help you get water out of your home. Use the drain in tandem with a sump pump or an existing drainage system.
- **4. Add an Exterior Curtain Drain:** An exterior gravel-topped curtain drain can help you manage surface water and runoff. By keeping more water flowing away from your house, you'll be helping prevent interior flood damage.