

# Flood safety: before, during and after

Extreme weather has caused more water damage in recent years. Protect your home and family before, during and after a flood.

## Before *prevent*

### Plan ahead:

- > Inventory your belongings using photos or videos.
- > Create an emergency plan with a designated meeting place.
- > Pack a 72-hour emergency survival kit.



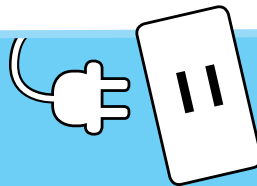
### Maintain your home:

- > Clean drains, eavestroughs, downspouts, catch basins and gutters.
- > Check the grading and extend downspouts away from the foundation.
- > Seal cracks on all walls.
- > If you have a sump pump, make sure you have an automatic secondary backup.
- > Don't dispose of fats, oil, grease or other objects in your sinks or toilets.

## During *protect*

### Protect your home:

- > Shut off electrical, furnace, gas and water, and disconnect appliances if safe to do so.
- > Steer clear of floodwaters.
- > Move to higher ground.
- > Move valuables from the basement to upper floors.
- > Raise large appliances up on wood or cement blocks. If items can't be raised, consider anchoring them and protecting them with a floodwall or shield.



### Stay calm and listen for:

Evacuation, boil-water or other advisories from emergency authorities.



## After *persevere*

### Before you go home, ensure you have:



- > Safe drinking water.
- > A working bathroom and sewer system.
- > Clearance from all utility providers such as electricity and natural gas.
- > A safe structure: check for buckled walls, damaged floors, broken glass and debris.

### Once home, reduce damage:

- > Remove pooled water and damaged materials.
- > Look for signs of mould contamination within the first 24 – 48 hours.
- > Clean, disinfect and dry every flood-contaminated room.
- > Keep fans running.



### Report the damage:

- > Take pictures or video of the damage.
- > Report the damage to your insurance provider and local municipality.
- > When cleared by your insurer, dispose of your flood-damaged items according to local regulations.



Your home holds everyone and everything you love and value most. We can help you protect it. Learn more about water damage prevention at [water.cooperators.ca](http://water.cooperators.ca). Plus, see what we're doing to encourage flood safety, distraction-free driving and mental health to help build a better world: [cooperators.ca/ourworld](http://cooperators.ca/ourworld).