



How to Prepare for a Flood

Floods can happen almost anywhere

Floods are the most common natural disaster in the U.S. Most floods happen near rivers, lakes, dams, levees, and the ocean.

What to do if there is a flood

For most floods, the authorities have time to warn you and tell you what to do. Listen to your radio or TV for emergency broadcasts.

You may hear one or more of these warnings:

Flood Warning: Get ready. The area is flooding now or will flood soon. You may have to evacuate.

Shelter-in-Place: Stay indoors. Close and seal all doors and windows. Listen to your radio or TV for emergency broadcasts.

Voluntary Evacuation: Get ready to the area soon. You do not *have to* go, but it is a good idea.

Mandatory Evacuation: You *must* leave *right away*. Do not go back until the order is lifted.

Flash Flood Warning: A flash flood is happening *right now*. Walk or run to higher ground *immediately*.

What to do if an evacuation is ordered



Listen to the radio or TV. Follow the instructions for your area. Go to the closest evacuation center or your family emergency meeting place (if you have one).

Transportation during a flood

Do not drive unless the emergency broadcasts say it is safe to evacuate by car. Listen to the radio or TV to know the safest way to leave.

If you are driving, even just 1 foot of water makes most vehicles float, causing total loss of control.

Prepare *now* for a flood

You should have:



Communication plan:

- Emergency phone numbers and emails for your family and friends,
- A safe meeting place, and
- A plan for how to get to your meeting place.

You will be able to find your family, friends and neighbors in an emergency.



Disaster kit:

- First aid kit
- Portable radio
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Basic tools, sturdy gloves, duct tape
- Change of clothes, sturdy shoes, and a whistle for each person
- Toilet paper, toothbrushes, toothpaste
- Extra prescription medicines
- Sleeping bags, or blankets
- Other supplies you may need, such as pet food or a wheelchair.



Emergency supplies:

Have enough supplies for 3 to 5 days, including:

- Canned foods, peanut butter, granola bars. Put packaged items in plastic bags to keep them dry.
- Water (1 gallon for each person per day). If you have to *shelter-in-place*, large bottles are OK. But smaller bottles are easier to carry if you have to evacuate.

For more information...



The FEMA website has information and resources about floods, hurricanes, insurance, and more. Go to:
www.fema.gov