

## Basic Checklist for Flooding

Done	Kind of Action	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	Grading. Have the ground slope away from the home so that water runs away from the foundation.	Remember the requirement for permits and also that your water, if you're not careful, can become somebody else's challenge.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Install eavestroughs with downspouts that direct water away from the structure and that end about 2-3 meters away from the home.	You will need to keep these clean and clear of debris, leaves, etc. If you have issues with ladders, etc., consider gutter guards.
<input type="checkbox"/>	If possible, install zero reverse flow valves in basement floor drains.	This will help keep things from backing up.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consider installing a sump pump. If you are doing this, make sure that when they install it they show you how to hook up your generator to it in case the power goes out.	This could be as simple as being on a whole home's critical circuit panel or just something where the pump is plugged into an outlet, allowing you to hook it to a generator's cable.
<input type="checkbox"/>	If building, consider the electrical panel and critical entry points being higher up to prevent them from being covered.	This may not be possible in existing homes. What you may consider, however, if you intend to remodel the basement, raise up the outlets to give them more space. Consult with electricians who know the building codes for this.
<input type="checkbox"/>	If remodelling the basement, consider the use of synthetic materials	FEMA has some guidance on the kinds of materials <a href="#">here</a> . What you may want to avoid are things like standard drywall, wood, carpets, and such materials that will become soaked and a sources of mould.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Make sure that you have stairwells or other routes into the basement that will allow you to move your larger things up from the basement relatively easily.	When doing restorative work, this is one of the most common challenges—doors that are too narrow and tight corners that don't allow for things to be carried up easily.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Make sure that vital documents are stored in a higher location and protected against water (see vital document checklist).	You can also take pictures or scan copies of these to hang onto electronic copies of things. While these may not be considered "official documents", being able to identify a document number or such may make replacing it less difficult.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Know the risks of when flooding can happen.	Consider the following: <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal flooding <input type="checkbox"/> Flooding as a result of heavy rainfall (mm/hr)

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Check with the power utility about any measures that should be taken if flooding is imminent.	In some cases, you may be asked to shut off the main breaker to the house if flooding is imminent. Again, consult with the utility on this and your insurance company.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Check to see if the furnace should be shut off.	If you are on an electric furnace or have a pilot light, be careful to do this, as skipping this can be a significant challenge after a flood.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Remove furniture, irreplaceable items, and appliances out of the lower areas to higher areas if able.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Remove paints, chemicals, and other materials that may be stored in the basement. If containers break, this can complicate both the environmental impact and restoration processes.	If possible, have a routine to properly dispose of unnecessary paints or chemicals
<input type="checkbox"/>	If possible and you know how to do this, remove toilet bowls and plug the space with a wooden stopper.	This step is something that PS Canada recommends, but might be beyond what many can accomplish.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Keep in touch with Emergency Management officials with respect to any steps you can take to prevent flood waters from reaching the home (like sandbagging).	There are some videos on sandbagging and similar measures on the resources page.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have your emergency kit with irreplaceable things and vital documents.	You may want to treat this like the evacuation for a wildfire.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Know your escape route	As best able, your route should avoid lower routes that could be susceptible to flooding.
<input type="checkbox"/>	On your escape route, avoid flooded areas, underpasses, or bridges with fast moving water. Stick to marked routes.	Check with 511 or similar services on route issues. The Current Situation page has a link to the page.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't forget your pets	Animals can be particularly vulnerable in these conditions.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Remember, it may be some time before you are able to return home if you are being evacuated.	Your emergency kit should be not less than the 72 hours but take into account that flooding may result in you being away from the home for longer than that.

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Floods are one of the most common forms of disasters in Canada and can result from many different events. Some are seasonal (such as rivers rising above their banks and inundating flood plains), while some are more the result of decisions that limit the ability of water to drain (such as we see with large pooling at low points in highways or in communities). Whatever the reason, a flood can be particularly devastating physically and emotionally for those suffering it.

There is more guidance on the various Public Safety and Emergency Management Office websites. Read through those as well.

Remember that flooding has a number of different risks. The first is obviously the water level and how it can affect homes, routes, and infrastructure. This can be fairly simple (it's soaked) to create additional challenges (such as flooding of electrical systems that can lead to severe shock hazards). The second involves the speed of water and how it may affect you. Remember, a cubic meter of water weighs a ton (literally). This means that any currents pushing against the side of a vehicle are doing so with enough force to either force the vehicle downstream or prevent you from opening doors or moving upstream. Finally, water can be insidious and undermine roads or other things below the surface that you cannot see. When that erosion gets to a certain point, passage over the washed-out area can become very dangerous (such as a road collapsing under a vehicle).

## Other Notes:

We have some challenges on the Eastern Shore with our transportation network. This can pose two challenges for us. First, we can be put in a position where we cannot get out. The second is that any help we need could take a while to get to us.

This section requires some judgement. It isn't going to make you an expert in anything. At the same time, an expert may be what would be ideal in most circumstances. While I would not advise getting in over your head, sometimes we don't have the luxury of having the experts on hand when they're needed. Then we just need to make due with what we have.

Ropes can often be a lifeline in floods. They can anchor you to safety when needed or help you reach safety when at risk. Three basic skills come to mind:

1. How to throw a line. Many of us have a background similar to arborists and we know a few tricks on how to throw lines to climb. This is a combination of how to throw the line but also how to attach the line (using something called a pile hitch).
2. How to rig a safety line (similar to a rope bridge) and then fasten to it (using something like a Swiss seat). Those of us that have had some form of military experience remember (often not terribly fondly) how to tie those for either rappelling or rope bridge crossing.
3. Finally, there is how to use something like a throw bag. While fire departments use these, those with a background on ships or in the Coast Guard may have also run across these.

Again, these are things that come with proper training and practice. That being said,

Some sources you may want to consider:

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1. Building a rope bridge (including the Swiss seat) at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oiBqPEF4dKw>
2. How to attach a throw line (including the pile hitch) at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOedE\\_oRHeU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOedE_oRHeU)
3. Some tricks on throw bags (that being said, this is something that should be learned from professionals and practiced), but here's some thoughts that may be useful <https://rnli.org/magazine/magazine-featured-list/2017/june/be-someones-lifeline-know-how-to-use-a-throw-bag>