

Cambridge Residents

Ready for Flooding?

PREPAREDNESS FOR EXTREME WEATHER



Get started: Flooding can occur in any season and for many different reasons. This document provides the steps to prepare within 24 hours or less of a flood event to reduce the probability of your home being impacted by flooding.

1. ARE YOU AT RISK OF FLOODING?

YOUR HOME



You have experienced a flooding event or want to proactively protect your home from the impacts of flooding.

YOU/YOUR FAMILY



Stressors causing greater vulnerability include:

Lack of emergency funds; poor health or limited mobility; limited English skills; children, adults at risk of isolation.

CHECKLIST TO ASSESS RISK

- Your living area is on the 1st floor or basement
- Your building mechanical/electrical is in the basement
- Your doors/windows are at grade
- You have basement storage
- You rely on public transportation
- You have pets
- You need groceries
- You are new to Cambridge
- You rely on medical equipment that requires power

2. ASSESS POSSIBLE IMPACTS

YOUR BUILDING

- Your insurance policy doesn't cover flood damage and you have to pay for repairs.
- You experience loss of power.
- Your basement floods and you lose valuables.
- You are unable to access or leave your home.
- Mold grows weeks after flooding occurs.

YOU/YOUR FAMILY

- You suffer from loss of food/medication due to power shortage.
- Your childcare is closed because of flooding.
- Your pets suffer.
- Your bike/car is damaged.



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3. WHAT YOU CAN DO

BEFORE

- Sign up for emergency alerts
- Stock go-kit including bottled water
- Raise important items at risk to flooding
- Introduce yourself to neighbors
- Clean storm drains around property
- Keep your phone charged
- Consider adding flood insurance
- Check sump pump
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DURING

- Call 911 if you feel you are at risk
- Avoid traveling
- Do a periodic check of at-risk areas
- Check on neighbors
- Stay away from downed power lines
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AFTER

- Review Extreme Weather Toolkit for more permanent solutions
- Rebuild using water-resistant materials
- Check for moisture & mold from 1-8 weeks post flood
- Don't enter a flooded basement
- Avoid electrical shock
- Contact the City on how to get rid of damaged items
- Notify family and friends
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*Fill out blank spaces with actions specific to you

4. RESOURCES

Learn about what changes you can make to **protect your building**:

www.cambridgema.gov/climateprep

Sign up for **Cambridge emergency alerts**, such as **CodeRed**:

www.cambridgema.gov/subscribe

Create a **go-kit**:

www.cambridgepublichealth.org/publications/Familypreparednessbrochure.pdf

Check the **FloodViewer**:

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/Services/FloodMap>