

Is your home flood proof?

There are precautionary measures residents can put in place to prepare for unexpected flooding

Lead Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Licensing, Cllr Brian Milnes, cautions:

“Flooding can be costly, so it makes sense to be prepared. By the time the weather worsens and flood water starts to rise, damage becomes inevitable if you haven’t taken precautions. It is impossible to completely flood proof your property, but there are precautionary measures you can and should put in place now.”



Advance preparations

What you can do to prepare for future flooding:

- check flood risk levels in your area: www.gov.uk/check-flood-risk
- purchase sand bags and other flood protection equipment. Check out local builders’ merchants or see companies such as Flood Sense (info@floodsense.co.uk or 08081 972 753) and Multi-flood Solutions (info@multifloodsolutions.co.uk or 01584 819 233). The Council does not endorse a particular product or supplier

- ensure you have adequate buildings and contents insurance. Taking photos may also help with insurance claims
- consider installing floodgates to protect doors and garages, and airbrick covers where they are at ground level
- plan your escape route and prepare an emergency kit with important numbers, insurance policy details, first aid kit, torch and water. Keep irreplaceable items and documents in a sealed bag ready to grab.



When flooding is imminent

Remember to:

- act early. Don’t just hope for the best as floodwater can rise rapidly
- check local radio and television stations for updates
- move your car to higher ground
- move people, pets and valuables to a safer place, such as upstairs
- pack essentials in case of evacuation – medication, clothing, toiletries and items for children
- turn off mains power and water
- pop a sandbag in the toilet to prevent sewage back-flow
- shut and lock windows/doors
- empty freezers/fridges where possible and leave their doors open
- leave the area if instructed to by emergency services
- do not attempt to drive or walk through flooded areas – water may be deeper than you think, hiding exposed man holes and obstructions.

Looking after pets

Have pet carriers and emergency pet food ready. For horses and livestock, maintain a list of those who could help move larger animals to safety, fit extra gates for emergency access and attach your contact details to them so you can be contacted quickly.

The Council has a limited supply of emergency sand bags and sand bag alternatives available, but these can take some time to be delivered and would be prioritised for our most vulnerable residents. In emergencies, this service can be accessed from 8am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, by calling 03450 450 063. Outside these hours, please call Floodline on 0345 988 1188 for advice. If there is an imminent risk to property or person, contact the emergency services.

Find more advice on our website.

➔ www.scams.gov.uk/flooding-preparation