

PREPARING FOR FLOOD



The more prepared you are for emergencies, the less stressful they become. Some simple steps can help you to plan and prepare for unexpected events like flood and protect you, your loved ones and your property.

If flood damage is severe it may be some months before repair works can begin. Depending on the extent of flooding, the home may need to be stripped out, dried and decontaminated or we may need to get a report from a building consultant or engineer before repairs can start.

Prepare for flood

- Sandbag around doors and over internal drain holes
- Secure objects that are likely to float and cause damage
- Keep water containers, a camping stove and fuel on hand
- Store poisons and garden chemicals well above ground level
- Elevate contents items if your property starts to flood
- Prepare to evacuate if advised to do so by emergency services
- Turn off your water, power and gas
- Empty fridge and freezer and leave the doors open
- Don't use portable generators inside. They produce dangerous gases and can cause incapacity or death
- Leave early and never try to drive, walk or ride through floodwater

After the flood

- ◆ Listen to Local Radio on a battery-powered radio for emergency updates
- ◆ Don't return home until advised by authorities it is safe to do so
- ◆ Avoid entering floodwater and stay away from drains, culverts and fallen power-lines
- ◆ Have appliances, gas and electricity checked by a professional before you use them
- ◆ Boil tap water until supplies are declared safe
- ◆ Check the whereabouts of pets and animals
- ◆ Dispose of medications or food that may be contaminated by floodwater
- ◆ Hand-wash contaminated dishes, pots and utensils with disinfectant and air dry
- ◆ Leave doors and windows open in dry weather to circulate air and prevent more mould
- ◆ Run the washing machine through full cycle before washing clothes
- ◆ Put photos and documents in the freezer to slow down water damage. Rinse documents first - dry with a hairdryer
- ◆ Remove damaged carpets, curtains or soft

Effects of flooding

- * Health problems for occupants
- * Water, mud and debris throughout
- * Power and gas fittings unsafe and need to be checked
- * Sewage system overflow
- * Poor adhesion of finishes, paint blistering, plaster/ paintwork cracking during drying
- * Lifting/bubbling of vinyl floor coverings
- * Kickboards, cabinets, skirting boards and floorboards - swollen/ warped
- * Corroded electricals - e.g. wiring, switches, powerpoints
- * Insulation, ceilings and walls wet/mouldy.
- * Internal floor and wall tiles drummy or contaminated
- * Swollen doors, windows and architraves
- * Wet/mouldy or contaminated internal walls/ wall framing.
- * Structural cracking or twisting of walls, movement of joists and bearers or slab

