

Flood Checklist

By John F. Smith

- Before the Flood
 - Find out if your home is at risk for flood.
 - Consider installing "check valves" to prevent flood water from backing up into the drains of your home.
 - Talk to your insurance provider about your policy covering flood damage.
- Flood Watch
 - Tune in radio, commercial radio, or television for information.
 - If possible, move furniture and valuables to higher floors in your home.
 - Bring outdoor belongings inside.
 - Fill bathtubs, sinks, and jugs with clean water.
 - Secure your home.
 - Be prepared to move to higher ground.
 - Be prepared to evacuate at a moment's notice.
- Flood Warning
 - Get your disaster emergency kit.
 - Listen to the radio for the latest information.
 - Turn off utilities at the main switches.
 - Unplug electrical appliances.
 - Seek higher ground on foot immediately.
 - If advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
 - Stay away from floodwaters.
 - If you're outside, climb to higher ground and stay there.
 - If you're driving through rising waters, abandon your car immediately and move toward higher ground.
- After Flood
 - Return home only when officials have declared the area safe.
 - Look outside for loose power lines, damaged gas lines, foundation cracks or other damage.
 - Approach entrances carefully.
 - See if porch roofs and overhangs have all their supports.
 - Watch out for wild animals.

- If you smell natural or propane gas or hear a hissing noise, leave immediately and call the fire department.
- If power lines are down outside your home, do not step in puddles or standing water.
- Keep children and pets away from hazardous sites and floodwater.
- Check with local authorities for assistance with disposal to avoid risk.
- During cleanup, wear protective clothing, including rubber gloves and rubber boots.
- Make sure your food and water are safe.
- Do not use water that could be contaminated.
- Contact your local or state public health department for specific recommendations for boiling or treating water in your area.