



## Before the flood:

- Find out if your home is at risk of flooding, by contacting the Environment Agency on 0845 988 1188
- If you are at risk of flooding register on the Environment Agency's Floodline Warning Direct 0845 988 1188.
- Understand what the Flood Warning Codes are, and what they mean.



- Bring indoors items which may cause damage or be damaged.
- Ensure you have bottles of drinking water.
- Find out what your local councils policy is regarding the provision of sandbags.
- Consider what flood mitigation measures you could put in place yourself.
- Move valuable items including important documents to a high level.
- Prepare a home emergency plan, so you know what you need to do depending on the flood warning issued.
- Know where and how to turn off your electric, gas and water supplies, should you need to.
- Check your insurance to see what you are covered for.

- Move livestock to high ground and ensure they are provided with shelter, fresh water and adequate feed, which should be checked regularly.
- Move outdoor pets, such as rabbits and guinea pigs, indoors to a garage or shed.
- Keep all domestic pets indoors and upstairs, if necessary.
- Ensure dogs are accompanied at all times when outside.
- Put horses, ponies and donkeys into stables on high land.

## During the flood:

- Never try to walk, swim, cycle through flood water. Foot obstructions may trap you, whilst 6 inches of rapidly moving water can knock you off your feet.
- Never try to drive through flood water – 80% of flood deaths occur in vehicles.
- Avoid contact with flood water, it is contaminated.
- If you have to evacuate your home, turn off those utilities you can access
- Avoid driving unless your journey is absolutely necessary.
- Do not try to return to your property unless you have been told it is safe to do so.
- Don't walk on sea defences and river banks or cross river bridges as they may collapse.

## After the flood:

- Check for structural damage to your buildings.
- If it is dark use a torch, not candles.
- Throw away all food, including canned goods, which have come into contact with flood water.
- Do not eat fruit and vegetables from a veggie patch or allotment, if they have been affected by flood water.
- Contact your insurance company.
- Keep record of flood damaged property and possessions.
- Open doors and windows to help ventilate your property.
- Don't start repairs until the flooding is over.

## Driving in wet weather:

- Stopping distances are at least double in wet conditions compared to dry conditions.
- Reduce your speed.
- Visibility may be reduced, due to surface spray.
- Keep well back from the vehicle in front of you.
- If steering becomes unresponsive slow down gradually.
- Be aware of spilt diesel on wet roads, it will make the surface very slippery.