

Flood Watch/ Flood Warning



What to do immediately before a flood

If a flood is imminent, you still have time to protect yourself and property. When a flood watch or warning goes into effect, consider taking these last minute steps:

Move insured property to safety. If you are a flood insurance policyholder, you can be reimbursed up to \$1,000 for moving insured property to another location (outside of the high-risk area) to protect it from floodwaters. Your policy will cover these belongings up to 45 days after relocation.

Double check all floodproofing to reduce risk of flood damage. Make sure appliances such as washer and dryers and hot water heaters, are elevated and secure. If you have installed flood vents make sure they are unobstructed and are in working order.

Move basement contents. Flood insurance doesn't cover basement contents, so move valuable items to higher levels of your home to reduce the risk of flood damage.

Invest in sandbags. A flood insurance policy will also pay up to \$1,000 for the cost to protect an insured building from a flood, specifically the cost to purchase and fill sandbags. Sandbags can be effective for diverting the flow of water if used correctly. Visit www.FLASH.org for more information about proper use.

Continue to monitor flood watches/warnings. Listen to local radio and TV stations for information and advice. If told to evacuate, do so as soon as possible.

Evacuate if necessary. Make sure everyone in your family knows the evacuation route and out of state emergency contact's address and phone number.

Take important documents with you. Documents you'll need after the flood—such as your flood insurance and homeowners policy, passport, and phone numbers—should be with you when you leave your home.

Don't forget your emergency supply kit. Food, bottled water, first aid supplies, medicines, and a battery-operated radio should be ready to go when you are.

FLOOD: KNOW THE TERMS

Flood Watch: Flooding is possible. Tune in to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for information.

Flood Warning: Flooding is occurring or will occur soon; if advised to evacuate, do so immediately.

Flash Flood Watch: Flash flooding is possible. Be prepared to move to higher ground; listen to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for information.

Flash Flood Warning: A flash flood is occurring; seek higher ground on foot immediately.

REMEMBER

Anywhere it can rain, it can flood. In 2006, every state in the country experienced a flood, so it's important to take steps to prepare your family and home for the threat of damaging floodwaters. Visit FloodSmart.gov or call **1-800-427-2419** to learn more about how to prepare for floods, how to purchase a flood insurance policy and how to protect your home and property against flooding.

