



# FLOOD EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

## Before a Flood

- Sign up for local flood alerts and NOAA weather updates
- Know your community's evacuation routes and shelter locations
- Keep important documents in a waterproof/fireproof container
- Elevate electrical panels, HVAC systems, and major appliances above potential flood level
- Seal basement walls with waterproofing compounds
- Move valuables and hazardous materials (paint, chemicals) to higher levels
- Maintain sandbags or water-inflatable barriers for quick deployment
- Install sump pump with battery backup
- Stockpile plywood or flood shields for doors and windows
- Store emergency "go bags" where they can be quickly grabbed
- Ensure your insurance covers flood damage (standard homeowners policies usually don't)
- Keep gutters and storm drains clear of debris
- Train staff or household on shutting off gas, water, and electricity

## During a Flood

- Listen to authorities and evacuate if ordered
- Never drive or walk through floodwaters ("Turn Around, Don't Drown")
- Move to higher ground or upper floors if trapped
- Keep pets on leashes or in carriers
- Avoid contact with floodwater (may contain sewage, chemicals, debris)
- Unplug electrical appliances if safe to do so
- Stay updated via battery-powered radio or alerts

## After a Flood

- Return home only when authorities declare it safe
- Wear gloves, boots, and masks during cleanup
- Photograph all damage before starting repairs
- Discard items that can't be disinfected (carpets, mattresses)
- Do not use electrical systems until inspected
- Boil water until authorities confirm it's safe
- File insurance claims immediately with photos and itemized lists
- Document all cleanup costs for reimbursement