

Things to consider in the event of a flood.

According to the Environment Agency over 2 million properties in England are at risk from flooding from rivers, seas and surface water.

Rising sea levels and more frequent rain storms caused by climate change are only set to exacerbate the problem.

There are still lots of things you can do to help prepare and protect your property.

It is important to find out if you live in an at-risk area. You can find out if the area you live in is at long-term risk of flooding by keying in your postcode at:

gov.uk You can also call Floodline 0345 988 1188 - a 24 hour service for flood warning information and general advice.

Move treasured possessions to a safe place

Photo albums and personal mementoes that can't be replaced should be moved somewhere safe or upstairs.

Agree a plan as to where you will go in the event of having to leave your home plus who might be able to help you and who may be in need of your help.

Your council should be able to advise of evacuation centres - most allow pets but please check with them. Sandbags should also be available from the Council.

Know in advance how and where you can shut off your electric, water and gas supply.

Contact numbers for your local authority emergency helpline, [home insurance](#) company 24-hour number and policy number, neighbours, local police station, gas, electricity and water supplier numbers should be noted and kept in a place easily accessible in the event of a flood.

Warm, waterproof clothing and blankets, water, food, essential medication, gloves, wellingtons, a torch, baby food and baby care items, pet food and pet carriers are useful to be stored in a bag easily reached at short notice.

In the event of a severe flood warning, there can be danger to life so you'll need to be prepared to act swiftly and calmly.

Keep yourself and your family safe. Your first priority should be safety. Get to a safe place with a means of escape, away from flood water. Be ready to leave your home. Follow the advice of the emergency services.

Stay within or leave your home if you're told so. If evacuated, you will be taken to an evacuation centre run by your local council.

If in imminent danger, call 999 for the emergency services.

When you're sure it's safe to return to your home, take care when entering as there may be hidden dangers in floodwater such as sharp objects and sewage pollution.

If your supply hasn't been switched off at the mains, do not on any account touch sources of electricity when standing in flood water. Get a qualified electrician to come to the property to switch off the power.