

PREPARING FOR FLOODING

Flooding is the primary natural disaster risk in Wisconsin, causing more damage and property loss than any other weather phenomenon. Proactive planning and mitigation are the most effective ways to protect your life, home, and property from water damage.

- Know your flood risk area **but remember flooding can occur even if you aren't in a flood zone**, heavy storms can bring water into your home. If you want to see if you are located in a flood zone, you can use the following link:

[FEMA's Flood Map Service Center](#)

Pre-Storm Preparation and Mitigation

Taking steps before a storm arrives can significantly reduce the potential for water damage and expedite your recovery.

- First and foremost, you should make an Emergency Plan for your household and don't forget your pets! Here is a link to get you started: [Make A Plan](#)
- Are you covered? Check with your insurance BEFORE water damage happens. Purchase or renew flood insurance. Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover flooding. It typically takes up to 30 days for a policy to go into effect, so the time to buy is well before a disaster. You can use this link to get flood coverage: [National Flood Insurance Program](#)
- Make an Emergency Kit: Be sure to include food, water to sustain each person/pet for 3 days. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Don't forget the needs of pets. Obtain extra batteries and charging devices for phones and other critical equipment.
- Be sure you are signed up for Emergency Notifications!

Property Mitigation Strategies

- **Utility Elevation:** Elevate furnaces, water heaters, and electric panels to keep them above potential flood levels.
- **Document Protection:** Keep important documents in a waterproof container. Create password-protected digital copies.
- **Sewage Protection:** Install backflow valves or other protective equipment to prevent sewage backup.
- **Water Diversion:** Ensure your yard is graded to direct water away from the foundation of the building.
- **Debris Removal:** Keep gutters and yards clear of debris to prevent drainage blockages and reduce other storm-related hazards.
- **Sandbagging:** Monitor local alerts for the availability of sandbag materials if your property is in a high-risk rising water zone.