Flood Protection Tips

In case of emergency, dial 911. For non-emergency issues, dial 311.

General flood protection tips:

* Sign up for emergency notifications through [AlertBoston](https://public.coderedweb.com/cne/en-US/BFB5F355FAB8).
* [Know your zone!](http://memamaps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/OnePane/basicviewer/index.html?appid=654d30c618414035a04b27daeb79931e) Know your evacuation zone and route and be prepared to evacuate as directed by public officials.
* Similarly, find out [how vulnerable](https://msc.fema.gov/portal) your property is to flooding. If your home is in a flood-prone area, contact the National Flood Insurance program to learn what mitigation measures you can take in advance.
* Evaluate your insurance coverage once a year to make sure your home is fully covered.
* Contact your local emergency management agency to learn how to construct proper protective measures around your home.
* If you live in a flood-prone area, keep these materials on hand: sandbags, plywood, lumber, plastic sheeting, trash bags, shovels, work boots and gloves.
* Put together a [disaster supply kit](https://www.boston.gov/departments/emergency-management/how-make-emergency-kit), including a flashlight, batteries, first aid supplies, copies of critical information, and non-perishable food items.

In advance of a flood event:

* Tie down or bring in outdoor objects (outdoor furniture, trash receptacles, etc.) that could be swept away or damaged during flooding.
* Secure loose rain gutters and downspouts and clear any clogged areas or debris to prevent water damage.
* Elevate items stored in your basement to prevent damage. If you have a sump pump, check that it is working. Remove hazardous household materials (e.g. paint, petroleum products) from basements and other areas that may flood.
* Consider clearing street catch basins to prevent or reduce street flooding.
* Do not park your vehicle near the harbor, streams or rivers, especially during threatening weather conditions.
* Follow any directives to turn off utilities. If you’re advised to switch off the main power source to your home, flip each breaker and THEN turn off the main breaker. You may also need to shut off the main valve for your home’s gas and water service.

After a flood event:

* If you evacuated, return home only when authorities have indicated it is safe.
* Do not go near any downed power lines especially if there is standing water nearby.
* Avoid walking or driving through flood waters.
* If your home experienced flooding, keep the power off until an electrician has inspected your system for safety.
* Do not touch a circuit breaker or replace a fuse with wet hands or while standing on a wet surface.
* Have an electrician inspect electrical appliances that have been wet and do not turn on or plug in appliances unless an electrician tells you it is safe. A trained professional may be able to recondition some devices while others will require replacement.
* Photograph damage to your property to assist in filing an insurance claim.
* Take necessary measures to prevent further damage to private property immediately following a flood event, as damage caused after a qualifying event may not be covered by insurance.