

MAYOR OF LONDON

FLASH FLOODING

If you live in a basement property,
you may be at greater risk.

Here's how you can prepare for flash floods.



This leaflet is designed to help you prepare for flash floods, which we expect to happen more frequently in our city. Be prepared – it could help to save lives.

Safety message from the Mayor of London:

“Serious flooding in London in recent years proves that the climate crisis is no longer a distant problem, but one increasingly on our doorsteps. We must all take action now to help build a greener city that is more resilient to the devastating impacts of climate change.”



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

Flash flooding happens when heavy rain falls on hard surfaces overwhelming drainage and sewers. Flash floods are difficult to predict and often happen quickly with fast flowing water. They are more likely to happen during intense summer storms. The likelihood of flooding remains low for most basements, but where it happens, damage and risk to life can be serious.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TODAY TO BE PREPARED:

- Sign up to weather warnings: [metoffice.gov.uk](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk)
- Put your valuables on a high shelf to protect them from water damage.
- Make sure you know how to turn off your water, gas and electricity supply.
- Check your household building or contents insurance covers flooding. If you don't have any, FloodRe may be able to help: [floodre.co.uk](https://www.floodre.co.uk)
- Save phone numbers e.g. your insurance company, landlord, housing association and local council in your phone.
- Check drains outside your home and on your street are clear. Report street drainage issues to your council by phone, their website or at [fixmystreet.com](https://www.fixmystreet.com) or [lovecleanstreets.info](https://www.lovecleanstreets.info)
- Prepare a flood kit.

Your flood kit should contain items you must have if you need to leave your home. Things like:



Medicine and prescriptions



Warm / Waterproof clothing



Phone charger



ID / Passport and insurance policies



Torch

BEFORE IT FLOODS, YOU SHOULD:

PREPARE:

Check Met Office warnings and listen to local news if storms are forecast. Make sure your flood kit is ready just in case.

IF IT FLOODS, YOU SHOULD:

ACT:

If water starts to enter your home, move yourself, your family and pets away from danger. Turn off electricity, gas and water if safe to do so. Avoid flood water if possible as it may contain chemicals and waste. Don't drive through flood waters, as it's dangerous.

SURVIVE:

Call 999 if there is a threat to life. Emergency services can help if you need to evacuate your home.

LEND A HAND:

Check on vulnerable neighbours if you can.

WHO TO CALL DURING A FLOOD:

- For emergencies such as serious illness, injury and risk to life, call **999**: fire, ambulance and police services
- If your toilet, sink or bath is flooding, call Thames Water: **0800 316 9800**
- Inform your council of flooding coming from outside your property e.g. from the road or pavement– visit [gov.uk/find-local-council](https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council) to locate your council. Then, find contact information for the right team by searching for 'flood' or 'flooding' through the council website.

USEFUL CONTACTS

- For general advice, call the Environment Agency's 24-hour floodline: **0345 988 1188**
- The National Flood Forum has a helpline that provides general support before, during and after a flood on issues including insurance, home re-instatement and home resilience. Contact the National Flood Forum charity: **01299 403 055** nationalfloodforum.org.uk
- To find an insurer, try FloodRe: floodre.co.uk
- If you are a renter inform your landlord/housing association if your home has flooded and needs repairs.

For more advice, visit: [London.gov.uk/flash-flooding](https://www.london.gov.uk/flash-flooding)



LONDON RESILIENCE

MAYOR OF LONDON

IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE WE FIRST SENT THIS LEAFLET – WHAT'S CHANGED?

- Our new surface water group will ensure we're better prepared for any flooding events. It includes the GLA, Environment Agency, TfL, London Boroughs, and Thames Water.
 - Together, we'll take forward the London Flood Review actions, talk to communities and create London's first citywide surface water flooding strategy.
 - By working together, we'll improve London's emergency response and communications during flood events. This will help to protect Londoners and reduce the impacts of flooding.
 - It's not just about reacting to flooding it's about taking steps now to protect our city.
- That's why we're working with our partners and government to get funding for more schemes to reduce the impact of flash floods, especially nature-based schemes and more tree planting. Both can help to reduce the risks.
- We're protecting the next generation too. Our climate-resilient schools programme is also reducing disruption to education from other extreme weather events, such as heatwaves.
 - Finally, we've created a map of sustainable drainage schemes across London. We're investing in these types of projects to help slow the flow of water and give the drains a chance to cope
- apps.london.gov.uk/suds**

