

# Preparing for a flood

## Fact sheet / flooding

**In the event of a flood it is important to focus on the safety of you and your family.**

**You should be prepared to act quickly and get yourself to safety. If you have a flood plan, put it into action.**

Put the safety of people first and listen to advice from the Police, Council and the Emergency Services. Remember that their concern is for your safety.

### **If it is about to flood, DO THESE THINGS NOW...**

- Put people before property. If water has already reached you, move your family and pets upstairs, with a means of escape.
- Gather essential items (like water, blankets, a torch, first aid kit, essential medication and food) and put them out of the way of flood water to keep dry.
- Tune into your local radio station on a battery or wind-up radio for updates.
- If you have a smart phone or remote device (e.g. laptop) follow local news websites and local public services who provide regular updates on websites and social media sites (i.e. Twitter and Facebook). You can follow Doncaster Council on Twitter @MyDoncaster and Facebook [www.facebook.com/mydoncaster](http://www.facebook.com/mydoncaster) and by visiting [www.doncaster.gov.uk](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk)
- You can also call the Environment Agency Floodline on 0345 988 1188 for the latest updates on flooding.
- If the flood water hasn't reached you and you have time, move your car to higher ground and move outdoor pets/ animals to safety.
- If possible, move your outside belongings to higher ground.
- Switch off your electricity / gas supplies when flood water is about to enter your home if safe to do so. DO NOT touch sources of electricity when standing in flood water.
- Disconnect any equipment that uses water (like washing machines and dishwashers) and turn your water supply off at the mains.
- Put plugs in sinks and baths. Weigh them down with a sandbag, a pillowcase or plastic bag filled with garden soil, or a heavy object. This will stop water / sewerage backing up through blocked or overloaded systems into your sinks and toilets.

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### If it is about to flood, **DO THESE THINGS NOW...**

- If you do not have non-return valves fitted plug water inlet pipes with towels or cloths.
- Consider using sandbags to help prevent water from entering your property.
- Move important items to safety - take items upstairs or to a high point in your property.
- Move or raise items of furniture that are expensive or harder to repair before cheaper ones.
- Safely store important documents such as insurance papers.
- Move items of personal value such as photos, family videos or treasured mementos.
- Move lightweight household belongings you can pick up easily and quickly.
- Listen to and act on the advice of the emergency services.

### Flood protection

- Floodwater can find its way into properties through a variety of routes including:
  - Around closed doorways
  - Through airbricks and up through the ground floor
  - Backflow through sewerage pipes with water discharging through ground floor toilets and sinks
  - Seepage through external walls and through cable holes
- If there's time, fit any flood protection products you might have already in your home such as flood boards, airbrick covers, sandbags or alternative barriers, toilet bungs (only needed for downstairs toilets) and any other flood product to help prevent water entering your home through doors, air bricks, windows, cat flaps etc.

### For more information:

For the latest information and advice on river levels and flooding including how to prepare for a flood, visit:

[www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

Or call the Environment Agency Floodline on **0345 988 1188** (or quickdial **138222**)

Doncaster Council posts regular information on social media:

[www.twitter.com/MyDoncaster](https://www.twitter.com/MyDoncaster)

[www.facebook.com/MyDoncaster](https://www.facebook.com/MyDoncaster)

[www.doncaster.gov.uk](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk)



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