

Preparing for a flood



This easy read document tells you how you can prepare for a flood.

What is a flood?



A flood usually happens when there is too much rain that can't drain away, and the water causes problems.



It is hard to know when a flood will happen, but you can do things to help protect yourself and your home from flooding.

Planning and being prepared

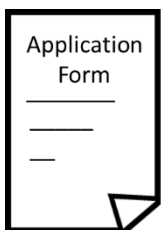


You can't stop all the dangers of flooding but you can do things to reduce the damage to your home and the impact of a flood on you and the people you live with.

Know your flood risk



The GOV.UK website has a page where you can [check the long-term flood risk](#) for any area. It shows if somewhere is likely to flood, will make it more likely to flood and where to get more information.



You can also [get specific flood risk information for planning applications](#).

Making a flood plan



The [GOV.UK website has advice to help you think about what to do](#) to prepare for flooding.



Our emergency planning team has prepared [information on how to prepare for an emergency](#), including flooding.



You can contact them by email:
emergency.planning@nottscc.gov.uk.

Preparing your property



If you own your home, it is your responsibility to protect it from flooding.



There are things you can do to reduce the impact of flooding on your property.

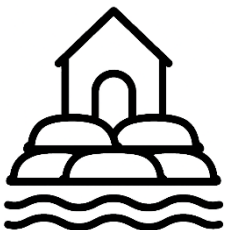


The GOV.UK website has [information about preparing your home against flooding](#).

🔗 Blue Pages

You can visit the [Blue Pages directory of flood products and services](#) to see what products and services you can buy to help protect your home.

Sandbags



Sandbags are a short-term and quite cheap way to manage flooding but they only help if they are filled and used in the right way.



They are not as good as purpose-designed flood protection products.



They will not help if a building is already flooded.



If a building is already flooded, you should act to protect people and belongings.



You should make sure your home is protected as far as you can.



If there is a flood threat, we might have limited supplies of sandbags that we can give to vulnerable people who can't get their own.



It will be difficult to get sandbags when there is flooding. If you want sandbags you should buy them from local DIY stores and builder's merchants before you need them.

We only provide sandbags to eligible places:



- buildings that are likely to flood soon who have vulnerable people inside (elderly, disabled and reduced mobility residents)



- places in danger of flooding that provide life-saving services such as hospitals and care homes

We will not give sandbags to:



- properties that don't have a very high flood risk or are already flooded



- sheds, garages, gardens and outbuildings



- people who can buy their own sandbags or who have access to a community resilience store



- other businesses



We cannot promise to provide sandbags.



You should buy your own sandbags as part of your flood preparations if you live in an area that is at risk of flooding.



If you meet the criteria for having sandbags from us, contact the Customer Service Centre on 0300 500 80 80. Outside office hours choose the option for highways.

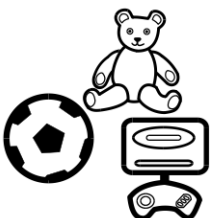
Insurance



If you own your home, you should buy insurance to cover buildings and contents.



Buildings cover means your insurer should dry, clean and fix your home after a flood.



Contents cover means your insurer should dry, clean and restore your possessions and replace or pay for any possessions that can't be cleaned up or fixed.



The GOV.UK website has [information about getting insurance if you live in a flood risk area](#).



The [government and insurers have set up Flood Re](#), which is an insurance scheme to help homeowners who need insurance in flood risk areas.

Preparing your community



Flooding usually affects whole communities, not just individual houses.



You can work together with other people in your community so you can prepare, act together and help each other.



If there is a lot of flooding at once, it helps emergency services if communities can help each other and are prepared.



Our [emergency planning team](#) support communities to prepare for emergencies and can help them make community emergency plans.



The Environment Agency run a “Flood Warden” scheme that communities at risk of flooding can join.



Communities can sign up to volunteer for the council’s community flood signage scheme.



This scheme means flooded roads can be closed quickly to stop vehicles driving down them, pushing flood water into houses.



For more information, email:
flood.team@nottsc.gov.uk.

Ordinary watercourses next to your property



An “ordinary watercourse” is a natural or man-made channel that water flows through, like a river.



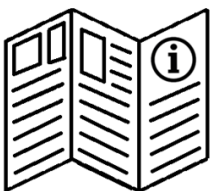
If you own land or property along an ordinary watercourse you must look after the bed and banks so water isn’t blocked and can flow freely.



This helps to stop flooding from happening.



You must [get permission from us before you carry out work](#) that affects the flow of water or the flood risk of an ordinary watercourse.



We have [a leaflet with more information \[PDF\]](#). This information is not in easy read format.



If you want advice on your responsibilities if you own a waterside property you can email the flood risk management team:

flood.team@nottsgov.uk.

Check flood warnings



You can sign up to receive flood warnings from the Environment Agency.



This is a free service for individuals and small businesses (up to 10 locations) that sends flood warnings directly to you by phone, text or email.



An early warning about a flood can give you time to prepare for it.



Businesses with more than 10 properties at risk of flooding can register for the professional alert system.



The professional service costs £4,700 a year but is free for not-for-profit organisations.



You can [register for the free or commercial warning service on the GOV.UK website](#).

Check local weather forecasts



You can check local media for weather updates.



You can also [check for local weather from the Government's Met Office](#).



The Environment Agency produces a [five-day flood forecast, which you can see on the GOV.UK website](#).

Flooding email bulletins



We produce a number of email bulletins on different topics. We have one on flooding. You can [sign up to receive these bulletins free of charge](#).



Our flooding bulletin will tell you the latest situation in Nottinghamshire, what we are doing and information on how to prepare.

Further information



If you want more information, you can contact our emergency planning team by:

Email: emergency.planning@nottsc.gov.uk

Phone: 0300 500 80 80

Links in this document

Check long-term flood risk

gov.uk/check-long-term-flood-risk

Flood risk information for planning applications in England

flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk

GOV.UK – what to do if you're at risk of flooding

gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding

How to prepare for an emergency

nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/emergencies-and-disruption/preparing-for-an-emergency

GOV.UK – protecting your property from flooding

gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding/protect-your-property

Blue Pages

bluepages.org.uk

GOV.UK – Getting insurance in a flood risk area

gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding/get-insurance

Flood Re

floodre.co.uk

Emergency Planning- Notts County Council

nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/emergencies-and-disruption/council-emergency-plans

Getting permission to change water courses

nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/flooding-help-and-advice/waterway-changes

Information leaflet on ordinary water courses [PDF]

nottinghamshire.gov.uk/media/2903468/watercourses-on-or-next-to-your-property.pdf

GOV.UK – register for free or commercial flood warnings

gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings

The Met Office

metoffice.gov.uk

GOV.UK – five-day flood warnings

check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk

Sign up to council news

nottinghamshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/news-and-media/emailme

For plain English web page version of this information, go to:

[Preparing for a flood \(Nottinghamshire County Council\)](#)

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/flooding-help-and-advice/preparing

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