

Preparing for a Flood

Your Emergency Pack

Be prepared, have an Emergency Pack at hand at home, in the car and at work.

Try using plastic boxes or backpacks to keep items together and make sure all members of the household know where the pack is kept. The contents of this pack may be a matter of preference, but suggested items should include:

Suggested Items

- lighting such as **torches** and **batteries** or **candles** and **matches**
- **bottled water** and/or **cans of juice**
- portable **battery-operated radio**, including spare batteries
- **first-aid kit** including items such as **bandages**, **cleansing agents**, **pain-relief tablets**
- A list of **medication** and **allergies** for all the family
- A list of important contact details
- personal hygiene products, such as **soap**, **toothbrushes**, **toothpaste** and feminine hygiene supplies
- copies of important document (**birth certificate**, **passports**, insurance documents etc)



Preparation

For more information on flooding where you live or to find out if your house is at risk and information on how to obtain flood warnings, contact the Environment Agency – details on the reverse of this leaflet.

Over the last few years the risk of flooding has increased significantly. No-one can stop flooding altogether, but we can be prepared by taking a few precautions:

- keep your emergency pack available
- Sign up to the Environment Agency Floodline
- Consider flood defences for your home
- Consider the most appropriate insurance cover for your home and contents – it's too late after a flood

In the event of Flooding

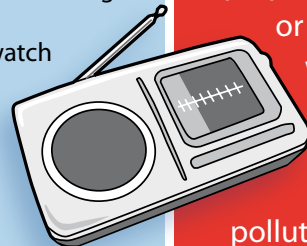
If flooding affects you or your property, there are a few simple practical tips you can follow to reduce the risk and damage floodwater can cause:

- switch off gas, water and electricity
- try to reduce floodwater coming into your home without taking unnecessary risks.

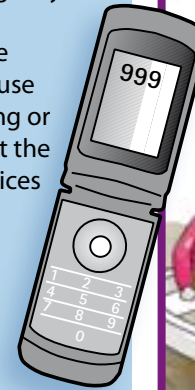


If possible, try to cover doors, windows and airbricks

- move people and animals to a place of safety. Remember to provide a litter tray for pets and have pet carriers available if possible
- unplug electrical items and store them upstairs if possible. For larger appliances such as fridges and freezers, it may be necessary to raise them on bricks
- if you can, move furniture, rugs, valuables and sentimental items upstairs
- have a supply of drinking water in clean bottles or similar containers
- fill the bath and buckets with water for washing etc
- listen to or watch the local media for up-to-date news on the flood



- have your emergency pack at hand
- if you need to be evacuated because of severe flooding or damage, contact the emergency services on 999
- if flooding traps you, stay by a window and try to attract attention.
- **REMEMBER TO LOCK UP if you leave your property**
- **AVOID MOVING WATER**



After a flooding incident

When floodwater recedes, it may leave a muddy deposit. As well as the distress of clearing up there may be structural damage to your property. So:

- remember that while sandbags help to keep water out, they will also keep it in as the level goes down
- refer to the Yellow Pages, under "flood protection" which gives details of qualified assistance such as plumbers and electricians as well as suppliers of cleaning materials and equipment
- it may be necessary to contact utility suppliers to reconnect supplies
- don't use electrical circuits or equipment exposed to floodwater until they are checked by a qualified electrician
- Contact your insurance company immediately.



DON'T DISPOSE OF DAMAGED GOODS until your insurers have had a chance to inspect them and remember to keep records of flood damage (photos etc)



DON'T

- **Don't** throw rubbish into watercourses or leave debris on the banks – it can add to the flooding problem
- **Don't** drink domestic water supply until you are advised it is safe
- **Don't** use the floodwater for drinking, food preparation, washing or bathing, the water will be contaminated with sewage and other pollution

Cleaning up after a Flood



Do not re-enter your house until all floodwater has been removed. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service may be able to help you with pumping floodwater out, but others may also need this help so you may have to wait your turn. Remember – there is no point pumping out rising water as it will come straight back in! If traffic is causing waves and further flooding to your property, contact

South Yorkshire Police. Alternatively, if flooding is being caused by a public sewer, contact Yorkshire Water. It is also recommended the following measures are taken:

- ventilate your building after flooding – less damp is less damage; it takes a house brick about one



- wash down all hard surfaces with hot soapy water
- use a domestic disinfectant (following manufacturers' directions as to concentrations) to wash all hard surfaces after cleaning
- launder clothing, bedding and other soft or fabric articles, including children's toys, etc, at the highest temperature as indicated on manufacturers' instructions
- arrange professional cleaning for other soft furnishings that have been contaminated and cannot be put in a washing machine or, if this is not possible, dispose of them
- seek advice from Rotherham MBC Neighbourhood Services on clearing up if you have any doubts
- seek professional advice if your property is damaged

structural engineer or loss adjuster to carry out an assessment of your property and arrange repairs. If you are uninsured you may have to arrange this yourself. If you are a tenant, you may be responsible for the repairs, depending on your property owner. If in doubt contact your local Citizens Advice Bureau for further advice. If your home is

uninhabitable, and you are insured, your insurers may help you arrange emergency accommodation. If you are uninsured or a tenant and are made homeless, you should contact Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Neighbourhood Services.

FRONT COVER



- month per inch to dry out
- put on protective clothing such as rubber gloves and wellington boots before starting any clean-up – the water will have been contaminated with sewage and other pollution
- remove all soft furnishings and fittings that are damaged beyond repair



If floodwater has damaged your property

If you are the property owner and insured, your insurers will most probably appoint a

Useful Telephone Numbers

NHS Direct	0845 4647
Environment Agency Floodline	0845 988 1188
National Grid	0800 111 999
Rotherham MBC	01709 382121
Severn Trent Water	0800 783 4444
South Yorkshire Transport Executive	01709 515151
Transco	0800 111 999
YEDL	0800 375675
Yorkshire Water	0845 124 2424

My GP

Work

School

Family

Friends

Veterinary Surgery

Insurance Company

Useful Websites

www.rotherham.gov.uk www.southyorkshireemergencies.co.uk
www.environment-agency.gov.uk/flood

BACK COVER