

Flooding and Businesses

Businesses in an area at risk of flooding should consider developing a flood plan so that all staff know what to do in the event of a flood.

- Develop a flood plan as part of your health and safety strategy and practice evacuation drills.
- Ensure that cut-off points for gas, electricity and water are marked on a map that is stored with the flood plan.
- Consider staff who may need special assistance in the event of serious flooding.
- Have a list of emergency numbers readily available including contacts for utility and telephone providers.
- Be aware of the location of chemicals, oils or other materials that could be dangerous or contaminate flood water. These should be stored safe from floods and other hazards.
- Consider the possibility of moving key operations to an alternative premises should it be necessary.
- If you have a farm, you should consider how to manage livestock in the event of a flood.
- Identify people who can help before, during and after a flood.



Restoring Your Home

Some guidelines for restoring your property safely and efficiently.

- Take photos/videos to record the damage before you begin work to restore your property.
- Air circulation is the best way to dry out a property. This may take time but it is important that the property is completely dry before moving back in.
- When choosing a professional to carry out repairs, be sure to get a few quotes and always ask for references or confirmation of membership of trade bodies.
- Damage caused by floodwater may not be obvious and switching on a service could be very dangerous. Engage a professional to check your property's services to ensure that it is safe to turn them back on.

Weather Forecast

Met Éireann issues advisories up to about a week ahead to provide early information on potential hazardous weather.

- Daily podcast www.met.ie/forecasts/listen-to-the-weather-forecast.
- Download the Met Éireann App for a detailed 10-day forecast for your locality and please do sign up for warnings notifications.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION VISIT:



www.flooding.ie Guidance on flooding

www.floodinfo.ie The OPW's flood information portal for location specific access to flood risk and flood risk management information.

www.gov.ie The Department of Social Protection operates a Humanitarian Assistance Scheme for eligible households affected by flooding or severe weather events.

www.redcross.ie The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment Emergency Humanitarian Support Schemes for businesses, community, voluntary and sporting bodies.

OEP Phone: 01-237 3800

Twitter: @emergencyle

E-mail: oepe@defence.ie

www.winterready.ie

Be Winter-Ready

GUIDANCE ON FLOODING



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Preparing for a Flood Event

Members of the public who are at risk of flooding can reduce the impact of a flood by making plans and by being prepared to respond should the need arise.

- Prepare a family flood plan. This is especially important where there are any young children or older adults.
- If you are an older adult living alone, consider where you could go in the event of a flood.
- Make up a flood kit and ensure that everyone knows where to find it. A flood kit should include a torch, some warm and waterproof clothes, wellington boots, a first aid kit and blankets.
- Have a list of emergency numbers readily available.
- Store important items and documents upstairs or above the highest possible flood level.
- Consider products that may help to mitigate the damage that could be caused to your home by floodwater



Flooding Facts

Ireland has experienced an increase in the number of severe weather events in recent years including those that lead to flooding. Scientists predict that climate change may lead to more frequent flooding in the future.

Flooding can have a significant impact on people living and working in the affected areas. Essential services can be disrupted and property and possessions can be damaged or lost. Most seriously, flooding can result in injury and loss of life.

- Just 150mm of fast-flowing water can knock a person off their feet.
- As little as 300mm of fast-flowing water can move most cars off the road.
- Flood water can move manhole and drain covers, creating invisible dangers.
- Electric currents can pass through flood water from fallen power lines and cables.
- Flood water is often contaminated by sources such as overflowing drains and refuse.



Staying Safe

If a flood threatens your area, safety should always be your first priority.

- Turn off gas and electricity, if safe to do so.
- Store any electrical items upstairs or above flood level.
- Ensure any medication is quickly accessible.
- Don't try to walk or drive through floodwater.
- Avoid contact with floodwater where possible as it may be contaminated or polluted.
- Take care when walking through shallow water – manhole covers may have come off and there may be other underwater hazards that are not visible.
- Never try to swim through fast-flowing water – you may get swept away or struck by an object in the water.
- Always wear suitable clothing when working in or near floodwater.