

Preparing for a Flood

If a flood is forecast

- Listen to the radio or television for emergency information.
- Do not store your important documents or essential items in the basement. Keep them at a higher level, protected from flood damage.
- Turn off basement furnaces and the outside gas valve.
- Take special precautions to safeguard electrical, natural gas or propane heating equipment.
- If there is enough time, consult your electricity or fuel supplier for instructions on how to proceed.
- In floods, in a rural farm setting, sheltering livestock may be the wrong thing to do. Leaving animals unsheltered is preferable because flood waters that inundate a barn could trap animals inside, causing them to drown.
- If evacuation of the animals is being considered, then evacuation procedures, places, and routes should be planned. Animal evacuation routes must not interfere with human evacuation routes. Alternate routes should be found in case the planned route is not accessible. Places where animals are to be taken should be decided in advance and arrangements made with the owners of these places to accept the animals.

If flooding is imminent

- Move furniture, electrical appliances and other belongings to floors above ground level.
- Remove toxic substances such as pesticides and insecticides from the flood area to prevent pollution.
- Remove toilet bowls and plug basement sewer drains and toilet connections with a wooden stopper.
- Disconnect eavestroughs if they are connected to the house sewer.
- In some cases, homes may be protected with sandbags or polyethylene barriers. This approach requires specific instructions from your local emergency officials.
- If water has not yet entered your home, but you have lost power, see *What to Do If There Is a Power Outage at Home*.
- If water is not yet present, turn off utilities at the main switches or valves if instructed to do so by local officials. Disconnect electrical appliances. However, **do NOT attempt to shut off electricity or touch electrical equipment if any water is present**. Water and live electrical wires can be deadly. Leave your home immediately and do not return until authorities indicate it is safe to do so.

Sources: [Before a Flood \(www.getprepared.gc.ca\)](http://www.getprepared.gc.ca)
[Floods \(www.emergencymanagementontario.ca\)](http://www.emergencymanagementontario.ca)



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