Flood

* Living with the risk of flooding is part of life in Queensland.
* We can’t prevent floods from happening, but we can take steps to be prepared by understanding our flood risk, where and how we get our flood warnings, and what steps we can take to reduce the impact of floods on our lives.

**Understand your risk**

* No two floods are the same and can vary depending on the quantity, duration and location of rain falling on our catchments. Depending on your location, you may experience floods differently. Your location will determine whether you are likely to experience river, creek, overland flow, storm tide flooding or a combination of several of these types of flood risks.
* Your home doesn’t need to be at risk of flood for you to be impacted. Isolation can impact people living in elevated areas that are surrounded by water sources.
* Isolation can prevent you from access to your home, school, local shops, and workplace during a flood.
* This occurs when major roads are cut-off due to flood waters, meaning that people are unable to leave their homes until the floods have subsided.
* [Your local council](https://www.getready.qld.gov.au/find-your-local-council) will be able to provide you with information about the level of flood risk for your property.
* Remember to never walk, swim, or drive in flood water because you can never tell what’s lurking beneath or the condition of the road below.
* If it’s flooded, forget it.

**Prepare your home**

* Preparing your home ahead of the severe weather season can help minimise the impact of flooding as well as the stress on you and your loved ones.
* **Make a plan**
  + The best way to ensure everyone knows what to do and where to go in an emergency is by keeping a Household Emergency Plan.
  + Sit down with your family and make a list of important contacts like family and friends who live out of town, doctors, insurance providers, utility providers, and emergency meeting places. Include details on where you would stay if you needed to evacuate quickly.
* **Pack supplies**
  + Keep a waterproof kit full of emergency supplies you'd need to last at least three days at home if you were isolated due to flooding.
  + Include plenty of non-perishable food and water, a torch, a battery powered radio, toiletries (including tissues, hand sanitizer, masks and disinfectant wipes), spare batteries, a small gas cooker, medication, and board games to help pass the time.
* **Make sure you’re covered**
  + Both renters and homeowners should be covered for disasters and should be familiar with their coverage details.
  + Make sure your home and contents insurance cover is up-to-date and provides adequate cover for flooding.
  + Call your insurer if you have any questions about your policy.

**Prepare your property**

* Reduce the impact of flooding on your property by conducting regular maintenance.
  + - Clear gutters and downpipes.
    - Check the condition of your roof and repairing loose tiles, eaves, screws and cracked guttering or tears in flashing.
    - Trim overhanging branches close to your home.
    - Fix any corrosion, loose fittings and rotting or termite-impacted timber.
    - Repair broken sealant around window sills.
    - Have readily available hessian bags and sand for sandbagging indoor drains to prevent sewerage backwash from flooding.
    - Store all poisons well above ground level.
    - Identify which indoor items you will need to raise or empty if flooding threatens your home.

**Adapt your home to be flood resilient**

* There are some practical building upgrades you can take to make your home more flood resilient.
* The [Flood Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland Homes](https://www.qra.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-04/flood_resilient_building_guidance_for_queensland_homes_-_april_2019.pdf) provides information and ideas about improving the flood resilience of new and existing Queensland homes. It focuses on resilient design and construction options and flood resilient building materials and systems.
* Make sure you contact your insurer if you are undertaking any of the building upgrades identified in the guide as they may qualify you for a reduced insurance premium.
* For more information visit: <https://www.getready.qld.gov.au/get-prepared/protect-your-home-and-contents/building-and-renovation-tips>.

**For more information on how to prepare your household for flooding and other disasters this disaster season, visit getready.qld.gov.au**