

REDUCE THE EFFECTS OF FLOODING ON MY PROPERTY

WHAT CAN I DO TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF FLOODING ON MY PROPERTY?

Any works to reduce flooding on your property cannot make flooding worse on another property. If there is an overland flow path through your property, water must be able to enter and exit freely at its natural point.

However there are some improvements you can make to minimise the impacts of flooding:

- **Keep drains clear** of litter, debris and rubbish.
- **Unblock, fix and replace** broken gutter and downpipes to prevent water pooling by your house.
- **Increase permeable areas on your property** – lawns, gardens and permeable pavements can reduce stormwater runoff.
- **Manage water flow:**
 - Be mindful of how water flows and collects on your property. Take a note of low areas where water may pool.
 - Shape your driveway, other paved areas and landscape so that water flows away from your house and into a drain.
 - If the ground level outside your house is the same as the inside floor level, you are more likely to be flooded. Maintain a step up between the outside and inside of your house.
 - When your driveway is lower than the road and is not in an overland flow path, ensure the driveway high enough or has a hump so water stays on the road instead of running down your drive.
- **Do not block overland flow paths:**
 - An overland flow path is a route that rain takes to reach waterways during heavy rainfall. When blocked, it can cause flooding in your property or onto neighbouring properties.
 - You have to accept stormwater runoff that naturally flows onto your property.
 - Do not build fences, sheds and other structures that block overland flow paths. Ensure fences have a gap at the bottom to allow water to travel underneath.
 - Raising the ground level around such paths may cause more flooding.

We also encourage you to seek professional advice (e.g. from a stormwater engineer) about ways you can reduce the risk of flood damage to your property.

GET READY BEFORE A FLOOD:

- Know your local public alerting system and make an emergency plan.
- Develop your evacuation plans and practise your evacuation route to higher ground.
- Work out what to do with your pets and livestock if you have to evacuate.
- Work out what supplies you might need and make a plan together.
- Take measures to reduce potential flood damage.
- Prepare sandbags to protect your property.

WHAT TO DO DURING A FLOOD:

- Floods and flash floods can happen quickly. If you see rising water do not wait for official warnings. Head for higher ground and stay away from floodwater.
 - Stay out of flood water.
 - Never try to walk, swim or drive through flood water. Many flood fatalities are caused by people attempting to drive through water.
 - Always assume that flood water is contaminated with farm run-off, chemicals and sewage. Contaminated flood water can make you sick. Make sure you wash your hands, clothes and property after contact with flood waters.
- If flooding is possible:*
- Stay informed in an emergency. Listen to the radio or follow your Civil Defence Emergency Management Group online.
 - Be prepared to evacuate and keep your grab bag near. Listen to emergency services and local Civil Defence authorities. Follow any instructions about evacuation of your area. Self-evacuate if you feel unsafe.
 - Move pets to a safe place and move stock to higher ground. If you have to leave, take your pets with you. If it's not safe for you, it's not safe for them.
 - Turn off water, electricity and gas if advised to.
 - Move valuable and dangerous items as high above the floor as possible. This includes electrical equipment and chemicals. Use watertight containers to store important items.
 - Lift curtains, rugs and bedding off the floor.
 - Check on your neighbours and anyone who may need your help.

WHAT TO DO AFTER A FLOOD:

- Only return home after Civil Defence and emergency services have told you it is safe to do so.
- Stay away from damaged areas - You might hamper rescue and other emergency operations and be at further risk from the residual effects of floods.
- Help others if you can, especially people who may need extra help.

See

tcdc.govt.nz/emergencymanagement
for more information.



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