

# BE FLOOD SMART THIS FALL


Flooding can happen in any season. It's important to be ready to protect yourself and your home. Here are a few simple tips to help keep your home dry this fall.



## CLEAR THE DEBRIS

Leaves and dirt can block water from moving through your eavestroughs, gutters and downspouts and cause water to build up near your foundation. Install a gutter cover to stop leaves from building-up.

Point your downspouts on the ground, 6 feet away from your and your neighbour's foundation. Use your shovel to add soil at the foundation to correct the grading around your house, so that water drains away from it. Check your municipal website for more information or reach out to a contractor for help.




## GUIDE THE WATER



## STOP WATER FROM GETTING IN

Caulk and cover lower-level windows. Look for wall cracks and seal them. Check your sump pump weekly, and more often during heavy rain to make sure it works. Get an automatic backup sump pump, in case it fails. Install a backwater valve to block sewage from getting into your basement from the main sanitary sewer and check it annually.

Flood damages to your home are expensive. Read your insurance policy or talk to your insurance provider to know if your home is covered against all types of flooding. Take stock of your valuables by making a list, or snapping photos or a video, in case you need to make an insurance claim. Check your municipal website or contact them about financial incentive programs for flood risk reduction steps, like installing a backwater valve and disconnecting downspouts from the stormwater system.



## LOWER YOUR FINANCIAL RISKS



## GET PREPARED

Stock up on emergency supplies that you can grab and take with you easily. Think of what steps you would take in an emergency. Find your valuables and raise or move them upstairs. Move your hazardous materials, like paint and other chemicals, off the ground. Talk to your family, friends and neighbours about a plan. Follow the advice of emergency officials.

