

BE FLOOD SMART THIS SPRING

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 spring.

KNOW YOUR OWN RISKS

Take a walk in and around your home to see where it might be at risk. Look at your community flood maps to learn if your house is located in a flood risk area. Sign-up for weather alerts to know if flooding is happening or might happen. Follow your municipality on social media to stay informed about flood and prevention information.

Downspouts and eavestroughs can shift during the winter. Fix them if necessary. Point your downspouts on the ground, 6 feet away from your and your neighbor's foundation. Clear out eavestroughs, gutters and downspouts of leaves and dirt that can build up over the winter. Use your shovel to correct the grading around your house by adding soil at the foundation, so water drains away from it. Check your municipal website for 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 or snow melts, 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 residents for flood risk reduction tools, like backwater valves and downspout disconnection.

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 arsenals, off the ground. Talk to your family, friends and neighbours about a plan. Follow the advice of emergency officials.

