



Solihull

METROPOLITAN
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Preparing a Flood Plan

Preparing a flood plan

Flooding can occur suddenly and unexpectedly, even with modern weather forecasting. This means that when a flood hits there is little time to prepare for a potential impact. Therefore, it is important to have a plan so that if your property suffers from flooding you are as prepared as possible. You can download and complete a personal flood plan [here](#).

The property/land owner

Your plan should include points such as:

- A suitable meeting point - pick one location close to your house and another slightly further away. If you cannot get to these locations, choose a friend or family member you can contact to say you are/are not safe.
- Two alternative places to stay planned in advance of any flood warnings should you need to evacuate.
- Knowledge of how to turn off the water, gas, and electricity. Only do this if it is safe and you have appropriate time to do so before any floodwater enters the residence.
- Helping out any vulnerable neighbours who may require it, if it possible and safe to do so.
- A place in mind where any pets could go to.



Prepare a home emergency kit

Basic services such as gas, electricity, water, sewage treatment, and telephones may be cut off. It is recommended you have food, water, and other supplies in sufficient quantity that will last for a minimum of 3 days. Items that you may want to have in your kit include:

- Water (4 litres per person per day)
- Food (at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food e.g. tinned food)
- Can opener for food
- Radio with batteries or a wind up radio
- Torch with charged batteries or a wind up torch
- First aid kit
- Whistle to gain attention
- Wet wipes and other personal sanitation items
- Wrench or appropriate tools to turn off utilities
- Mobile phones and chargers
- Grab bag (see next section).



Grab bag

This should be a small bag containing a few essential items (similar to those explained above) such as a first aid kit, torch, and contact details for your insurance companies. Further information on what a grab bag could include can be found [here](#).



Figure 1: Example of a grab bag from CSW resilience

Community emergency planning – Parish Council

Create a 'Community Emergency and Flood Plan' with the Parish Council or another local group. By involving members of the community when preparing the plan, everyone will be clear on how to work together to respond to a flood to ensure safety of people and property.

Evacuating your home

You may be advised to evacuate your home. Reception Centres will be provided in a local community building such as a leisure centre where you will be safe from any flooding and looked after by trained volunteers. If you have made your own arrangements, such as staying with friends, make sure someone is aware that you are safe. It is not compulsory to evacuate your home but, when suggested, it is in the interests of your safety. Use all available information to determine if there is any immediate danger. In an emergency call 999 or for non-emergencies call 101.

Temporary protection measures include:

- Moving valuable items to higher ground.
- Purchasing temporary flood-boards and guards, sandbags, and large waterproof bags to protect belongings.

For floods which are over 90cm in depth or prolonged floods, attempting to keep the water out can cause serious structural damage. This is as a result of the unequal water pressures either side of the walls. In these circumstances the flood water must be let into the property.

If you would like to know more or have had an incident of flooding, please contact Solihull Council and one of our flood risk team will be happy to help

drainage@solihull.gov.uk

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