

Three steps to safety

Prepare

- Be aware and know the signs. Signs to watch for:
 - Heavy rain or severe weather reports
 - Rising water levels with churning dark water
 - A build up of debris in rivers or streams
- Plan where to go if you get caught in a flash flood



Act

- Do not walk or drive through flood water
- If you are in a building with at least two storeys and you believe it is safer to stay where you are, you should move to a higher storey
- Call 999 if there's a risk to life, or if you're trapped

Survive

- Call 999 if you're in immediate danger
- Follow advice from the emergency services
- Keep yourself and your family safe

Where can you go for updates on flooding?

Your local radio station(s) **BBC Radio Wiltshire 95.5FM** or **DAB digital**
Follow us  **@EnvAgencySW**  **EnvironmentAgencyWessex**

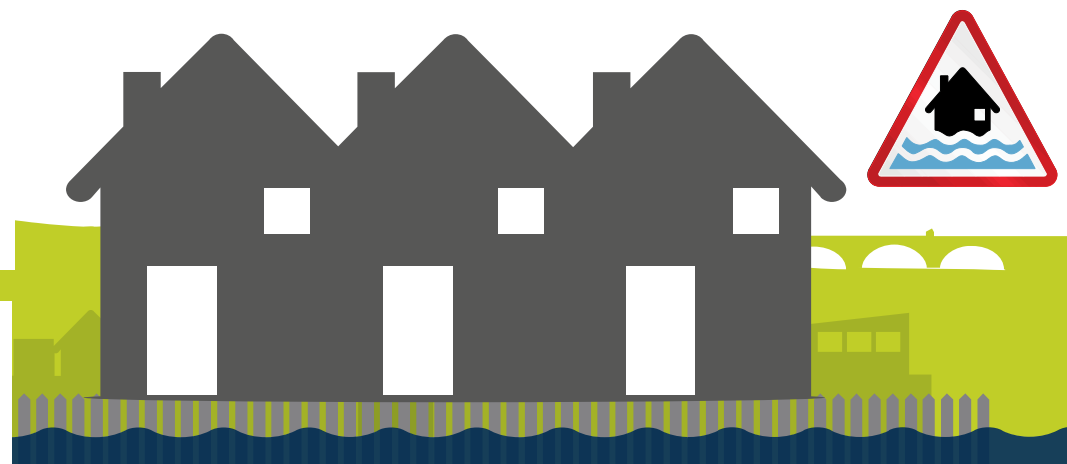
Make sure you know your local radio station

Visit <https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/> for current flood alerts and warnings, five day flood forecast and river, groundwater and rainfall levels.

Your community is at risk of Flash Flooding

Stay safe. Do you know what to do?

Easterton



Extreme flash flooding is dangerous and can happen very quickly. The effects can be devastating.

Look inside to find out about the dangers of flash flooding and how to stay safe.

Your community is at risk of flash flooding

The Environment Agency works hard to pinpoint where flash floods are likely to happen, and have identified that your community is at risk. Most major flash floods happen where there hasn't been a big flood in living memory, so it is vital that, even if flooding hasn't happened in your community for a long time, you know what to do and how to stay safe.

This leaflet sets out some simple actions to ensure you know what to do if a flash flood happens.

What is flash flooding?

Flash floods occur extremely quickly - much faster than other forms of flooding - and with massive force. They can move rocks, tear out trees, sweep away vehicles and destroy buildings and bridges.

They tend to happen when heavy rainfall runs off land and quickly swells rivers and streams. Water can also build up quickly in urban areas when rainfall is unable to drain away.

How to recognise a flash flood:

- **heavy rainfall**
- **a short time between the rainfall and flooding**
- **large amounts of fast flowing water**
- **damage to buildings and structures**
- **dangers presented by debris**
- **there is an urgent threat to life**



What you can do to help slow or stop flood water coming into your home

If you own part of the river bank you should keep the banks and bed of the river clear of debris. For information and guidance visit

www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse

Assess your property to understand where water could enter during a flood. You or your landlord could install property flood resilience (PFR) such as flood boards or airbrick covers to help stop water coming inside the house.

Make sure any PFR is accessible, serviced and working, e.g. pumps and seals in good working order.

For helpful information, guidance, downloadable guides, case studies and factsheets visit:

- www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding
- www.floodmary.com
- www.floodre.co.uk/buildbackbetter/



What should you do if you have to leave your home?

Having a grab bag ready with useful items means you can get to safety quickly:

- Insurance / landlord details
- Spare glasses/contact lenses
- Medication
- Mobile phone and charger
- Torch and wind-up radio
- Bottled water and food
- Warm clothing
- Baby nappies, food and toys



Who can you contact about flooding?

Environment Agency 24-hour incident hotline 0800 807060

Floodline 24-hours 0345 9881188 www.gov.uk/flood

Wiltshire Council 0300 456 0100 <https://my.wiltshire.gov.uk/drainage@wiltshire.gov.uk>

Report Property Flooding <https://my.wiltshire.gov.uk/flooding>

Wessex Water 0345 6004600 www.wessexwater.co.uk

National Grid 0800 052 0400 /105 powercut

National Gas Helpline 0800 111 999/ 105 powercut

Insurance www.abi.org.uk or www.FloodRe.co.uk

National Flood Forum 01299 403055 www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk

Your local flood warden is a valuable source of information and knowledge – contact your Parish Council for more information

If you think your life is in danger call 999



Flash flooding can happen suddenly.
You may have to act before a warning is issued, or before emergency services can reach you.

People particularly at risk are those:

- In basements or single-storey properties
- In a mobile home, tent, caravan, boat or wooden structure
- Unfamiliar with the area e.g. tourists



What can you do now?

Understand the flood risk for your home and surrounding area

Sign up to receive the flood alert for the Mid Bristol Avon area

Sign up to the MetOffice National Severe Weather Warning Service www.metoffice.gov.uk

It's really easy to take these actions:

- Call Floodline on 0345 988 1188
- Visit www.gov.uk/flood
- Visit www.gov.uk/check-long-term-flood-risk



FLOODING IS EXPECTED

Be Flood Aware, Prepared and Ready to Take Action

Make a personal flood plan and a checklist of things you need should you need to leave your home.

Consider Property Flood Resilience (PFR), if you haven't already.

Chat to friends and neighbours about how you could help each other.

Check to see if your insurance covers flooding.

Know how to turn off gas, electricity and water supplies.



How will roads and travelling be affected?



What would we do if our electricity went out?

What can you do when you get a flood warning?

Check that your family, neighbours and pets are okay.



Move important things upstairs or to higher shelves, so they don't get covered in dirty flood water.



Where would I put items to keep them safe?



When do I install my property flood resilience measures?