

Prepare For Flooding

Each year, late-winter rain and the melting snowpack create the potential for flooding in Oregon. But you can take a few simple steps to help protect you, your family, and your property.



Prepare for flooding

Before heavy rains, help prevent flooding by clearing leaves from gutters and storm drains. Install a sump pump and a water alarm in your basement. Know where [self-serve sand stations](#) are located throughout Washington County. If you need to visit one, call ahead to confirm hours of operation and availability of sand and bags.



Make a plan

Create a brief to-do list in case of flooding. Include supplies, including plenty of water and nonperishable food for each member of your household. Take photos and videos of household items and furniture. Store your most important documents – insurance policies, birth certificates, etc. -- in a waterproof lockbox.



Evacuate immediately

If officials ask you to evacuate, grab your supplies and do so immediately. Driving, swimming and walking through floodwaters can be deadly. Stay off bridges. If you find yourself trapped in your car, don't try to escape in fast-moving water. If it begins filling with water, crawl onto the roof.



Clean up carefully

The fact that the water has receded does not necessarily mean that it's safe to start cleaning up. Don't return home until the authorities have given the all-clear. If your home has been damaged, wear work boots and protective clothing before re-entering. Don't touch electrical equipment and turn off the electricity if it's safe to do so. Keep kids and pets away until the cleanup is complete.



Do you have your emergency supply of water and food, and have taken other steps to prepare for emergencies?

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