

# Preparing for floods

## What to do before flood season

- Prepare your home emergency plan.
- Check your insurance policy is up to date.
- Prepare or inspect your emergency kit. Test batteries and check use-by dates on items like gloves and first-aid supplies.
- Purchase containers to store drinking water. Purchase extra fuel supplies and hessian bags for sandbags.
- Raise power points and air-conditioning units, if possible.
- Consider planting, landscaping or building structures around your property to deflect water, improve drainage and protect your home against landslides.

## When a flood watch warning is issued

### In your home

- Move household items as high as possible. Put furniture on beds and then personal items on top of the furniture.
- Stack electrical equipment on top.
- Take out wooden drawers from furniture and cupboards that can't be moved.
- Place perishable food items in plastic bags or waterproof containers.
- Secure items such as refrigerators that may be dangerous if moved by flood water. If you can't secure them and you have to evacuate, leave the doors open.
- Remove light bulbs from light fixtures that are below flood level.
- Put sandbags over drainage holes and in toilets.

### Around your home

- Place plastic sheeting and sandbags at entryways to prevent water from entering your property.
- Protect machinery and equipment that cannot be moved with waterproof covers or sandbagging.
- Store chemicals and poisons in waterproof containers as high as possible.
- Turn off the mains supply for water, power and gas.
- Secure loose items in your yard and around your home.
- Remove items from around your home that might collect water and attract mosquitos.

## EMERGENCY KIT

### Having a kit ready to go means less stress if there is a flood in your community.

Consider buying one or two items a month or each shop, to ensure you are prepared in case you need to leave your home at short notice, or are cut off from your local town or service area.

- Bottles of water and non-perishable food.
- An overnight bag with change of clothes and toiletries.
- Mobile phone charger.
- A USB stick with any important documents and photos (including recent photos of your home to support any insurance claims).
- A first aid kit including any medicines or prescription repeats for medicines and extra antiseptic and antibacterial solutions.
- Battery powered radio (and spare batteries).
- A list of contact numbers including family, friends, neighbours and your local bushfire information line.
- Warm and water resistant clothes and appropriate footwear.
- An up-to-date printed out map of your local area in case your internet goes down and roads are closed.
- Waterproof bags.

### Don't forget your pets!

- Leash or suitable carrier - it's good to practise getting your pet into these containers before an emergency so it's less stressful for both you and the pet!
- Non-perishable pet food and a bowl for water.
- Vet contact details.
- A familiar toy or treats.

Check your state emergency services websites for additional information and resources.

### Know who to call

In life threatening situations call **000 (Triple Zero)**

For emergency help in floods call **your state or territory SES on 132 500**

