

This guide is also available in the languages below.

Arabic

رُدّ NYC.gov/readyny للحصول على نسخ باللغة العربية من هذا الدليل.

Bengali

এই নির্দেশিকাটির বাংলা কপিৰ জন্য NYC.gov/readyny দেখুন

Chinese

請撥打311或訪問NYC.gov/readyny，獲得本指南的中文版本。

English

Call 311 or visit NYC.gov/readyny for copies of this guide in English.

French

Visitez NYC.gov/readyny pour obtenir des exemplaires de ce guide en français.

Haitian Creole

Ale nan sitwèb NYC.gov/readyny pou jwenn kopi gid sa a nan lang Kreyòl Ayisyen.

Italian

Visita il sito NYC.gov/readyny per ricevere una copia di questa guida in italiano.

Korean

한국어로 된 안내서 사본은 NYC.gov/readyny를 방문하십시오.

Polish

Kopia w języku polskim jest opublikowana pod adresem NYC.gov/readyny.

Russian

Позвоните по номеру 311 или посетите сайт NYC.gov/readyny, чтобы получить эту брошюру на русском языке.

Spanish

Llame al 311 o visite NYC.gov/readyny para obtener acceso a este folleto en español.

Urdu

اس رہنما پرچے کی کاپی اردو زبان میں حاصل کرنے کے لیے NYC.gov/readyny ملاحظہ کریں۔

Yiddish

באזוכט NYC.gov/readyny פאר קאפיס פון דעם פאפיר אין אידיש.

READY NEW YORK FLOODING



Scientists believe changing weather patterns may bring a greater number of rainstorms to New York City. These intense storms can lead to dangerous street flooding, cause sewers to back up into homes, and pose serious threats to health and property. While the City tries to manage storm water effectively, residents can also take some important steps to protect themselves.

BEFORE THE FLOOD

DETERMINE YOUR RISK

Low-lying coastal regions and first-floor and basement levels are naturally more at risk for flooding. To determine your home's risk, visit www.floodsmart.gov.

MAKE A PLAN

- Provide your insurance agent, employer, and family members with emergency contact information so you can be reached after a flood, and fill out an Emergency Reference Card.
- Keep important documents, including insurance information, vehicle titles, and receipts for major appliances, in a waterproof container and elevated off of the floor.
- Prepare a Go Bag full of items you may need if you must leave your home. To learn how to assemble a Go Bag, visit NYC.gov/readyny or call 311 (TTY: 212-504-4115).

UNDERSTAND YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS

Flood damage is not covered by a basic homeowner's policy. Protect your home by purchasing flood insurance.

You cannot be denied insurance based on where you live or your home's history of flooding. Most insurance is provided through the federal government's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and goes into effect 30 days after purchase.

To estimate your premium, or learn more about flood insurance, visit NFIP's website, www.floodsmart.gov, or call (888) 379-9531.

GET INFORMED

OEM on Facebook and Twitter

www.facebook.com/NYCemergencymanagement
@nycoem

Notify NYC

Register for emergency notifications by visiting NYC.gov/notifynyc, calling 311, or following @NotifyNYC on Twitter.



REDUCE YOUR RISK

Green Space

Trees, plants, and grass can help absorb rain water. When possible, plant vegetation and avoid paving over green space on your property. Visit www.milliontreesnyc.org or call 311 (TTY: 212-504-4115) to request a tree on your street.

Backwater Valves

A backwater valve can help prevent sewage from flowing from the pipes back into your home during heavy rain.

New York City building code requires valves for many new buildings and major renovations. The work must be done by a licensed plumber.

After installation, inspect the valve periodically to make sure it works when you need it.

Ground Fault Interrupters (GFIs)

A ground fault interrupter (GFI) circuit connected to an electrical receptacle can prevent shock or electrocution during flooding. GFIs must be wired by a licensed electrician.

NOTE: To check if a plumber or electrician holds a valid license, visit NYC.gov/buildings or call 311 (TTY: 212-504-4115). For any of these improvements, get quotes from multiple contractors.

Below Street-Level Property

If part of your property is below street level, consider strategies to keep storm water from flowing into your home, such as modifying slopes, adding green space, or installing physical barriers.

Before or during heavy rain, remove debris from catch basins in your area to allow the water to enter.

Pick up the leaves from your yard to keep them from clogging streets and catch basins.

Keep materials, such as sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, and lumber, on hand to protect your home, especially if you live in a flood-susceptible area.

For additional information about how you can protect your home and community from flooding, visit NYC.gov/dep or call 311 (TTY: 212-504-5115).



DURING THE FLOOD

- Call 911 immediately if your life or health is in danger (i.e., you see rapidly rising water that may reach the electrical system, you are stranded, etc.).
- Call 311 (TTY: 212-504-4115) if your property is threatened (i.e., your basement or street is flooded, the sewer is backing up into your home, etc.).
- Move expensive items, important documents, and things of sentimental value to upper floors.
- Turn off gas and electrical utilities at the main switches or valves, and disconnect electrical appliances.
- Avoid walking or driving through flooded streets. As few as six inches of moving water can knock a person over. One to two feet of water can carry away a vehicle.
- Flood water can be contaminated. Avoid contact with sewer water, as it poses a serious health risk.
- Report any downed power lines and avoid standing in flood water, as it can carry electrical current.
- Stay out of any building if it is surrounded by floodwaters.

Q: Is my water safe to drink during a flood?

A: YES. As drinking water and sewage are carried in separate pipes, it is generally safe to drink your tap water during a flood or sewer back-up.

NOTE: Do not flush the toilet or run water during heavy rain because a backwater valve will prevent this water from flowing out of your home.



AFTER THE FLOOD

If you have flood insurance, contact your agent immediately. Photograph any damage to your property and save receipts for replacement items or repair work.

Before re-entering a severely flood-damaged building, have an architect or engineer assess its safety.

CLEAN UP SAFELY

- Wear long sleeves, sturdy shoes, and rubber gloves during clean-up.
- Wear goggles and a mask if mold is present.
- Dry all areas and items quickly and thoroughly to prevent mold growth.
- Dry-clean or wash and dry all clothing and fabrics to disinfect.
- Remove visible contamination from floors, furniture, and other surfaces with detergent and water.
- If the flood water contained sewage, take extra precautions to avoid direct contact. Wear waterproof gloves and boots and wash your hands, body, and clothing with soap and water.
- Disinfect all surfaces affected by sewer water with a dilute bleach solution.
- For tips on how to prevent mold growth and clean specific items, visit NYC.gov/health or call 311 (TTY: 212-504-4115).

WARNING: Never mix bleach with ammonia or anything containing ammonia, as dangerous gases may result.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
www.fema.gov, (800) 621-FEMA

- Financial assistance, temporary housing

FEMA Region 2 Coastal Mapping
www.region2coastal.com

- Most up-to-date flood maps, available for download

U.S. Small Business Administration
www.sba.gov, (800) 659-2955

- Financial assistance to help prepare your home or business for a flood
- Home repair, property replacement, business recovery

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
(888) 297-8685

- Financial assistance to help prepare your home or business for a flood
- Foreclosure relief

NYC Department of Environmental Protection
NYC.gov/dep

- Flooding, storm water management, sewer and water supply system information

NYC Office of Emergency Management
NYC.gov/readyny, Hurricanes and New York City guide

- Flood and emergency preparedness

NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
NYC.gov/health

- Flooding clean-up, mold prevention

NYC Human Resources Administration
NYC.gov/hra, (877) 472-8411

- Emergency food, shelter, financial assistance

NYC Sandy Recovery
NYC.gov/recovery

- Information on the City's efforts to help New Yorkers recover from Hurricane Sandy

American Red Cross in Greater New York
www.nyredcross.org, (877) 733-2767

- Food, clothing, help with rent and medication

Neighborhood Housing Services of New York City, Inc.
www.nhsnyc.org, (212) 519-2500

- Home rebuilding loans, construction services, mortgage assistance

INSURANCE RESOURCES

New York State Department of Financial Services
www.dfs.ny.gov, (800) 342-3736

National Flood Insurance Program
www.floodsmart.gov, (888) 379-9531