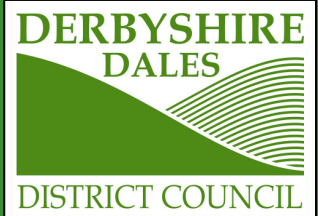


FLOODING

How to prevent your property being flooded



1. If your property is at risk of flooding here are some measures you might consider:

- Low embankments around your property
- Raising the flood threshold level of your property
- Construction of a storm porch to protect the entrance of your house from the weather
- Walls/solid fencing
- Flood resistant gates
- Outside wall renders and facings, including veneer walling (a thin protective wall coating)
- Non-return valves in waste pipes and outlets
- Portable items such as free-standing barriers, door boards and flood skirts
- Airbrick covers, including periscope covers that seal automatically during a flood, preventing floodwater getting into your property
- Water-resistant external doors
- Pump & sump systems to extract floodwater
- Sealing of floors (known as "tanking")
- Using concrete to fill under-floor voids or delay flooding from the ground
- Raising electrical sockets, TV points etc
- Flood resilient kitchens (plastic, stainless steel, free standing removable units)
- Raising white goods such as kitchen units or other at-risk items
- Storage of at-risk items off the floor or upstairs
- Changes to internal walls to speed recovery after a flood (e.g. different rendering; dry-lining; horizontal use of plasterboard)
- Flood resilient skirting – skirting boards that are plastic and glued rather than nailed are more resistant to floods
- Internal doors that can be easily moved to safety during a flood

Note that Planning Permission and/or Building Regulations approval may be necessary. You are also advised to contact the Environment Agency – tel: 08708 506506, email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

To find out if your home or business is in a flood risk area, enter your postcode into the Environment Agency's website at www.environment-agency.gov.uk or call the Agency's Floodline on 0845 988 1188.

2. Emergency measures

In emergencies you should contact Derbyshire Dales District Council's Environment Hotline on 01629 761215 to request sandbags.

3. Useful resources

- **The Blue Pages Directory** - the National Flood Forum's directory of flood protection products and services www.floodforum.org.uk
- **Defra's** web-pages on flooding and property-level protection/resilience www.defra.gov.uk
- **Aviva's Flood Resilient Home** www.aviva.com/customers/helpful-advice
- **Derbyshire Prepared** – information to help you prepare for emergencies www.derbyshireprepared.org.uk
- **Community messaging Service** – circulated rapid information when emergencies occur www.derbyshire.police.uk/safety

FLOODING

Clear up measures after a flood



1. Although medical problems after flooding in the UK are rare, floodwater can be contaminated. Follow these simple rules and you should not experience any additional health problems:

- Use protective clothing - waterproof boots and gloves - while cleaning up
- Always wash your hands with soap and clean water after using the toilet, before eating or preparing food, after being in contact with flood water or when taking part in cleanups
- Don't allow children to play in floodwater areas and make sure they wash their hands frequently (always before meals). Wash contaminated toys with hot water or disinfectant
- Clean open cuts or sores and don't expose to flood water. Use waterproof plasters
- Harmful bacteria such as *E. coli* 0157 can pass into floodwater. Although any bacteria is likely to be substantially diluted, anyone with a stomach upset following flooding or contact with sewage should seek medical advice
- Floodwater containing oil or diesel should disperse naturally. Any remnants can be removed using detergent. Inaccessible areas (such as under floorboards) may present an odour problem, but not necessarily a health hazard
- As floorboards and walls dry out after a flood, any loose material should be vacuumed up
- Children should not play on timber floorboards or any damaged tiled floors immediately after flooding. Check first for sharp edges on tiles or raised nails in boards
- Help for vulnerable and elderly people returning to their houses is available from Social Services on 0845 605 8058
- Contact your Doctor if you become ill after accidentally swallowing contaminated water
- Replace manhole covers dislodged by floods

2. Gardens and Play Areas

Do not let young children play on affected grassed or paved areas until they have been cleaned and restored to their normal condition. Any health risk should disappear within a week or so. The best way of protecting health is always to wash hands before eating or preparing food.

3. If the inside of your home is affected:

- Remove all soft furnishings and fittings that are damaged beyond repair
- Remove dirty water and silt from the property including the space under the ground floor if you have wooden floors. This space may need pumping out. Allow to dry thoroughly
- Wash down all hard surfaces with hot soapy water until they look clean
- Heating and good ventilation will assist the drying process
- Don't eat any food that has come into contact with sewage or floodwater. Use boiled water, which has then been allowed to cool, to wash food which is eaten raw
- Don't use electrical appliances that have been in contact with floodwater until checked by a competent electrician. Your local Electricity Company will check mains supplies

4. Contact details

For further information please contact Derbyshire Dales District Council's Environmental Health Section (public health issues) on 01629 761212 or our Community Services Department (general flooding enquiries) on 01629 761130. Emergency email: environmenthotline@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

This information is available free of charge in electronic, audio, Braille, large print and other languages. Please call 01629 761100