



# Actions for Flood Resilient Homes: Emergency Plan/Kit

There are three basic steps to preparing for an emergency:



get good information



make a plan



get supplies ready.



## Get good information

Whether it's a flood, a tornado, or a winter storm, you need good information to be ready for an emergency. "[Are You Ready? An In-Depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness](#)," can help you prepare and react in the face of disaster. Developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the free, 200-page guide includes information on floods, tornadoes, thunderstorms and lightning, fires, winter storms and extreme cold, extreme heat, and toxic hazards. It is based on reliable hazard awareness and emergency education information and physical research on what happens in disasters.

Upload copies of important documents, photo IDs, proof of address, medical records and bank docs



Be sure to buy flood insurance



The focus of the guide is on how to develop, practice, and maintain emergency plans that address what must be done to protect you and your property before, during, and after a disaster. Also included is information on how to assemble a disaster supply kit that contains sufficient food, water, and other supplies to survive following a disaster.

*Image courtesy of FEMA. If you're interested in disaster information specifically related to flooding, visit the [FEMA factsheets](#) on preparing a family and pet plan, putting together a flood-related disaster supply kit, and evacuation tips.*



## Make a plan

It's important to sit down with your family—before a disaster—to plan what you'll do in the case of an emergency. You'll need to decide how you will get in contact with each other and where you'll go to be safe. Some things to discuss include:

- What are the safest areas in your home for each hazard? In the event that your home is not safe, what are safe areas within your community?
- What escape routes can you take from your home or places to meet? Make sure these routes aren't far away.
- How will you care for your pets if you need to evacuate? Go to [www.ready.gov/caring-animals](http://www.ready.gov/caring-animals) for more information on how to plan for your pets.
- What items will you need in a disaster supply kit? See the information below to develop a list.

*You can record this information by filling out [this document](#) right from your computer. When you're done, print it out and store it with your emergency supplies (see below). Don't forget to update information as it changes; it's a good idea to check every six months to make sure your information is current.*

You'll also need to document information such as:

- **Out-of-town contact information:** Designate an out-of-town contact person for each family member to contact in case local phone equipment becomes overloaded or out of service. That contact person can then let other family members know everyone's status and location.
- **Emergency meeting locations:** In the event that not all family members are at home when disaster strikes, where will you meet?
- **Basic information about each family member:** If you become separated from a family member, having their basic information can help emergency personnel locate them. Include information about serious medical conditions.
- **Address and contact information of places your family members spend most of their time:** Knowing these addresses and phone numbers can help you locate and communicate with family members.
- **Doctor information**
- **Policy numbers of any medical and/or homeowner's insurance plans.**



## Get supplies ready

When disaster strikes, you don't want to be scrambling for necessary supplies. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security provides guidance to help build a shopping list [here](#). Once you've assembled your kit, don't forget to maintain it. Check annually to make sure that it will meet your family's needs.

