



# Safety Tips

## Flooding

### Plan ahead

- Know where floods can happen in your community.
- Make a plan to leave quickly.
- Think about what you already have that could be useful and what help you may need.
- Have “go bags” ready with supplies for everyone in your household in case you have to leave quickly. A go-bag has medications, pet supplies, and copies of important papers.
- If you live in a house with a basement:
  - seal windows and doors
  - install a sump pump if you can
  - move important items to a higher level
- Fix any leaks you notice when it rains. If you rent, tell your landlord about any leaks as soon as you can.
- Take photos of your property, furniture, and valuable items for insurance purposes.
- Check your insurance coverage before a storm, so you know what is covered and who to contact.
- Clear rain gutters, downspouts, and storm drains.

### During a flood

- Clear drains near your property so water can flow into them. Check weather and news reports. Think about downloading a weather app like WeatherCan.
- Be ready to leave quickly if you have to. Have your go-bag or emergency kit ready to take with you.

- Don't try to shut off electricity if the equipment is wet or if you are standing in water.
- Stay away from rivers or streams. The water level may have risen and riverbanks may be unstable.
- DO NOT cross flood waters. Don't try to drive through flooded streets.
- Follow any instructions or evacuation orders from your town or city, police or emergency officials.

## **After a flood**

- Return home only when your town or emergency officials tell you it's safe.
- Hire an electrician to check the electrical system before you turn the power back on.
- Test well water before you use it. Learn about testing well water:  
<https://novascotia.ca/well-water-testing/#:~:text=Well%20water%20should%20be%20tested%20every%20six%20months%20for%20bacteria>
- Wear personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect yourself from mould and while you clean up.