

Get ready for floods

How to keep your family and home safe

Easy Read version



Australian Government

National Emergency
Management Agency

How to use this document



We are Get Ready Australia.

We wrote this document.



We wrote some words in **bold**.

We explain what these words mean.

There is also a list of these words on page 22.



You can ask someone you trust for support to:

- read this document
- find more information.



This is an Easy Read summary of another document.

It only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other document on our website.

getready.gov.au

What's in this document?

What is a flood?	4
------------------	---

What should you do in a flood?	6
--------------------------------	---

Who is at risk of floods?	8
---------------------------	---

How do you get ready for a flood?	11
-----------------------------------	----

Where can you find more information?	20
--------------------------------------	----

Word list	22
-----------	----

What is a flood?



A **flood** happens when a lot of water covers land that is normally dry.



A flood can be an **emergency**.

An emergency is a dangerous situation when people need help straight away to stay safe.

Floods can happen when:



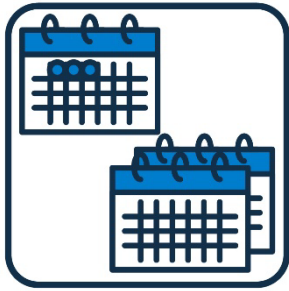
- rain falls at the top of a stream



- drains overflow



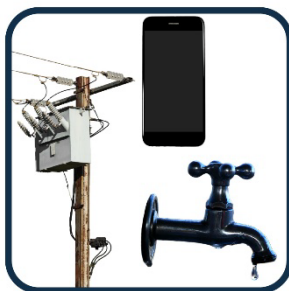
- sea levels rise.



Floods can last for days or weeks.



Floods can stop people from using important services.



This includes:

- phones
- power
- water.

What should you do in a flood?



You should leave your home if you don't feel safe.



You don't need to wait for someone to tell you to go.



You should try not to travel while a flood is happening.



If you have to travel in a flood, you should check if the roads are blocked before you leave.



There might be flood water blocking the roads you want to take.

This can make it unsafe for you to travel.



You should never go into flood water.



This includes:

- driving
- walking
- swimming.



You should also make sure you keep up to date on news about the flood.



You can find these updates on your state and local government:

- websites
- social media.

Who is at risk of floods?

You are more at risk of floods if you live:



- near rivers, creeks or the ocean



- in places that don't drain water well



- where floods have happened before.

How to find out if you are at risk in a flood



We use the Australian Warning System for floods across Australia.



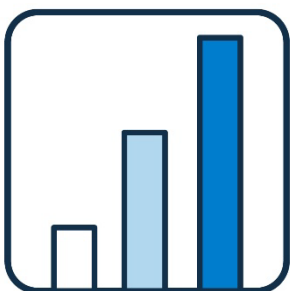
This is how **emergency services** show:

- how dangerous a flood is
- what you should do to stay safe.



Emergency services help protect people and make them safe in dangerous situations.

For example, the police and firefighters.



The Australian Warning System has 3 warning levels.

1. Advice:



- an emergency has started
- you are not in danger yet
- you should stay up to date with what is happening.

2. Watch and Act:



- an emergency is getting worse
- you might be at risk
- you need to start taking action.

3. Emergency Warning:



- you are in danger right now
- you must take action
- waiting puts your life at risk.



You can also visit the Bureau of Meteorology's website for information and warnings about floods.

www.bom.gov.au

How do you get ready for a flood?



To get ready for a flood you should talk to your friends and neighbours.

They might know important information that can help you.

You should also:



- get your home ready



- make an emergency plan



- pack an emergency kit.

Get your home ready

To get ready for a flood you should:



- keep important things and documents in high places



- keep electrical items in high places



- clean gutters, drains and pipes

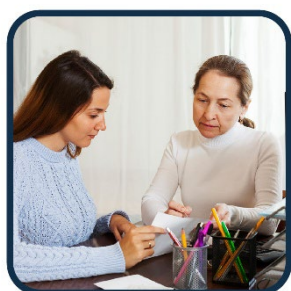


- have flood barriers ready – like sandbags.

Make an emergency plan



An **emergency plan** explains what you will do to stay safe if a flood happens.



You should:

- make your plan with people you live with
- write your plan down.



Your plan should include important phone numbers you might need in an emergency.

For example, emergency services.

Your plan should also include:



- when you will leave



- how you will stay safe when you leave



- where you will go.



Your plan should also include different ways to get somewhere safe.



This is because the flood might block some roads.

Pack an emergency kit



You should have an **emergency kit** ready.

An emergency kit includes important things that can help you:



- stay safe
- leave quickly
- protect yourself and your home.



You should have enough things in your emergency kit to last you for at least 3 days.



This is just in case you must stay home
without power or water.



You should keep your emergency kit in a place that is:

- dry
- easy to get to.



Everyone in your home should know where your emergency kit is.

What to pack in your emergency kit

Your emergency kit should include:



- clothes



- wool blankets.

Your emergency kit should include:



- toiletries – like a toothbrush and hairbrush



- toilet paper



- sunscreen



- hand sanitiser



- medicine and a first aid kit.

Your emergency kit should also include:



- water – at least 3 litres per day for each person



- food that won't go bad quickly – like canned food



- a way to open your food – like a can opener



- a radio that uses batteries



- a torch and extra batteries.

If you need to leave your home, make sure you take your:



- mobile phone and charger



- important documents



- money and bank cards



- things that are important and mean a lot to you.

Where can you find more information?



You can visit our website to find more information.

getready.gov.au

We can help you:



- learn more about what to do in a flood



- learn how to contact emergency services in your state and territory



- get emergency warnings for your area.



You can stay up to date when a flood is happening by listening to:

- ABC radio
- SBS radio.



If you speak a language other than English, you can call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National).

131 450

Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.



Emergency

An emergency is a dangerous situation when people need help straight away to stay safe.

Emergency kit



An emergency kit includes important things that can help you:

- stay safe
- leave quickly
- protect yourself and your home.



Emergency plan

An emergency plan explains what you will do to stay safe if a flood happens.



Emergency services

Emergency services help protect people and make them safe in dangerous situations.

For example, the police and firefighters.



Flood

A flood happens when a lot of water covers land that is normally dry.



The Information Access Group created this Easy Read document using stock photography and custom images.

The images may not be reused without permission.

For any enquiries about the images, please visit

www.informationaccessgroup.com.

Quote job number 6413-D.