

Get ready for floods

Prepare your family and home for floods.



Did you know?

- Flooding is responsible for **1 in 5 deaths** caused by natural hazards in Australia.
- Rainfall upstream, overflowing drains, or storm surges (rising sea levels) can all cause water to rise suddenly.
- Floodwaters can carry **sewage, chemicals and debris**, posing health risks long after the water has gone.

What is a flood?

A flood happens when water covers land that is normally dry. Floods can rise quickly, lasting for days or weeks. They can cut off roads, phone services, and access to emergency services. Floods can also cut off essential services, like power and water.

Am I at risk?

Floods can happen **anywhere**. You may be at higher risk if you live:

- near rivers, creeks, stormwater drains, or floodplains
- in coastal towns at risk of storm surges
- in low-lying areas or regions with poor drainage
- in areas that have flooded before.

You can get official flood information and warnings from the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) and your local government's disaster dashboard / centralised emergency information website.



To learn more, visit the website

getready.gov.au



Warning Information

The Australian Warning System is used by emergency services to show how serious the risk is from an active flood. There are three warning levels that provide guidance on the actions you should take.



Advice



Watch
and Act



Emergency
Warning

How to prepare for a flood

Preparing today can help you stay safe if there is a flood. Talk with everyone in your home and prepare together so each person knows what to do.

To prepare for a flood, you should:



Ready your home



Make an emergency plan



Pack an emergency kit



Talk to your neighbours and local community



Australian Government
National Emergency
Management Agency

Ready your home

- Store valuables, important documents and electrical items above flood levels.
- Keep gutters, drains and downpipes clear.
- Have sandbags or flood barriers ready.



Make an emergency plan

Talk to your family about what you will do when there is flood.

Preparing now can help you stay safe and reduce stress. People who are prepared recover faster.

An emergency plan is a written document. **Here's what to include in your plan:**

Who will you call in an emergency?

Keep a list of important phone numbers in case you need help.

When will you leave and how will you stay safe when you go?

- Always listen to authorities when they advise you to evacuate.
- Don't delay - water rises quickly. If you don't feel safe, leave. You don't need to wait to be advised to evacuate.
- Never drive, walk, or swim through floodwater.
- Identify multiple routes in case roads are blocked and check routes before leaving.

Where will you go?

- Plan to stay with family and friends who live in a safe area.
- Go to a community evacuation centre.

Regularly check state and local government emergency service websites and social media for updates on conditions in your area.



Pack an emergency kit

An emergency kit is a box or bag of essential items you can pack today so you are ready if a flood or other emergency happens.

Have at least three days of supplies in case you must stay home without power or water.

Keep your kit in a dry, easy-to-reach place, and make sure everyone in your home knows where it is.



What to pack in your emergency kit

Pack these items now so your kit is always ready. You may need to add items to your kit based on your family's specific situation.

- ☐ Clothes
- ☐ Woollen blankets
- ☐ Toiletries and toilet paper
- ☐ Sunscreen and hand sanitiser
- ☐ Medicines and a first aid kit
- ☐ Water (at least 3 litres per person, per day)
- ☐ Food (non-perishable food and a can opener)
- ☐ Battery-operated radio
- ☐ Torch & spare batteries

If you need to leave, make sure you take:

- ☐ Mobile phone and charger
- ☐ Important documents
- ☐ Valuables
- ☐ Cash and bank cards
- ☐ Medicines



Where to get more information

Find the contact details for your state or territory emergency services.

getready.gov.au



Learn how to receive warnings and prepare for floods and other natural hazards.

During a flood, listen to local alerts and updates on ABC or SBS radio.

Call **131 450** for the national Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS).

