

Be prepared

The right behavioural measures can reduce flood damage

Behavioural precautions for emergencies start with being aware that one is living in an area that is at risk of flooding; recognising that there may be flooding in certain situations. Take all of the possibilities into account. Be prepared and steel yourself for the worst case.



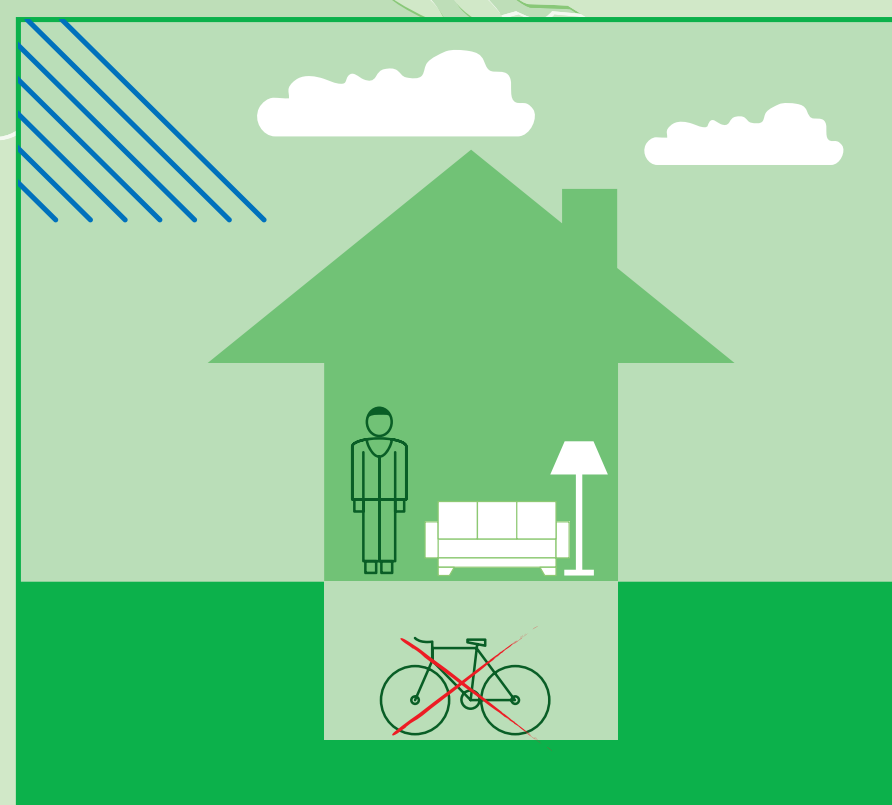
It is a good idea for family members and neighbours, in other words everyone in the immediate surrounding area, to be on the same page. Together we are stronger, and in emergencies there may not be time for long considerations or explanations. There's no need for chaos or a hectic rush – if you are prepared.

Public flood hazard maps provide important information online – for instance, how high the water is at specific points and which roads are still accessible.



Long-term preparation

- Organise neighbourly help
- Create a personal alarm and action plan with your family
- Organise and keep flood equipment at hand
- Implement structural protective measures
- Create personal checklists and review them regularly



Short-term preparation

- Empty out basements
- Put vehicles in a safe place
- Secure oil tanks
- Evacuate furniture, secure valuables and documents
- Seal doors, windows and drains
- Remove or turn off electronic devices
- Listen to weather reports and flood warnings on the radio, TV or internet

- ☒ As soon as possible, meet with your neighbors and your family and determine what you will do in the event of an emergency.
- ☒ Obtain official information about what the state agencies will do in the event of a flood. Include your children in the planning and give them assignments to keep them from being afraid.
- ☒ Consider whether you can take any structural measures to prevent water from entering your house.
- ☒ If there is a real threat of flooding, secure your possessions!

- ☒ The most expensive things are not always the most valuable or treasured. Think about things that cannot be replaced: paperwork, mementos and non-material, sentimental values.
- ☒ You should also be prepared for the worst-case scenario and be ready to leave your house. In the event of an evacuation, there will not be much time. Keep emergency luggage, food and drinking water at hand.
- ☒ Turn off your water, gas and electricity.
- ☒ Leave your doors unlocked so that emergency and rescue forces can access the house.

Extensive information can be found in the brochure "Living with floods," which was published as part of the OderRegio project (available online at www.oderregio.org), and the „Hochwasserschutzfibel“ issued by the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development (available online at www.bbsr.bund.de).

Sources:

- Joint Spatial Planning in Berlin-Brandenburg (Ed.) (2005), OderRegio Brochure 1, Potsdam
- Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development (Ed.) (2010), Flood control primer, 3. Supplemented and revised edition, Berlin

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