

Basement Flooding and Your Home

Flooding can happen quickly and without warning. Every home is at risk even if you've never experienced flooding before. Your home's basement is the lowest part of the building and is often the first place that water may appear when flooding occurs. Basement flooding can be caused by a number of different factors, but there are measures you can take that may reduce the possibility or severity of flooding.

Causes of basement flooding:

- A crack or leak in the home's foundation, basement walls, or basement windows or door.
- Poor lot grading or drainage especially within 2 metres of your foundation walls.
- Failure of the foundation drains (weeping tiles).
- Overflowing or clogged eaves-troughs.
- Leaking or plugged downspouts or outlets too close to basement walls.
- Failure of the sump pump (in some homes) used to pump weeping tile water.
- A blocked connection between your home and the main sanitary sewer on the street.
- A backup of wastewater from the sanitary sewer system.

Prevention Tips:

1. Seal any foundation cracks including around windows, doors, service connections.
2. Ensure proper lot grading all around your foundation and shovel snow and ice away from your foundation in winter.
3. Keep eaves-troughs clear and disconnect and divert downspouts away from your foundation.
4. Consider a professionally installed and well maintained backflow valve and sump pump for added protection.
5. Keep driveway and roadside catch basins clear of debris, ice and snow.

Your Family Flood Plan:

Flooding can happen any time and your family may not be together when a flood occurs. Creating a family flood plan in advance ensures that you will be better prepared if flooding occurs.

Your flood plan should be discussed with all members of the family and updated annually. All family members should know how to reach an agreed upon meeting

location outside of your neighbourhood and how to reach each other by text messaging (during emergencies, texting is more likely to be effective than phone calls or e-mails).

In the case of children, decide who will be collecting the kids and what to do in case an alternate person must make the pick-up. You may wish to arrange a special code word with children to identify the trusted caregiver. Monitor local media reports, the City's web site and social media sites (Mississauga Snow, City of Mississauga) if flood warnings are issued to find out conditions in your neighbourhood.

Additional tips:

- Find out if you live in a flood-risk area: Contact your local Conservation Authority ([links to CVC, TRCA Conservation Halton](#)) for floodplain areas near your home
- Update schools and workplaces with your current contact information and keep an updated list of all important contact information and telephone numbers in your grab-and-go kit
- Identify both local and remote (outside of flooded area) contacts in case you are evacuated and need a place to stay. Arrange with this contact to coordinate contacting all family members in the case of an evacuation.
- Identify a community landmark as well as a more remote location unlikely to be unaffected by flooding to meet adult family members.
- Keep phone numbers for home utilities (electricity and natural gas) handy in case emergency shut offs are required.
- Keep telephones charged and ensure that your vehicles have gas
- Prepare your family flood-emergency supply kits (plan for at least a 3-5 day supply of materials and supplies).
- Have your 'grab-and-go' kit ready in a convenient location if you have to leave your home quickly.
- Document all your valuables using video to have a record in case of loss
- Relocate valuables upstairs.
- Ensure that all basement storage and appliances are elevated off the floor.
- Keep important papers in watertight containers on the main or second floor of your home and have a record of your valuables in a safe place.
- Consider arrangements for your pets should you have to vacate your home for several days
- For more information, visit:
 - [Provincial Emergency Program website](#)
 - <http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/index-eng.aspx>
 - <http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/readiness.asp>

Flood Emergency Kit:

When a flood happens, you and your loved ones may not be together. Emergency workers may ask you to evacuate or to shelter-in-place for up to three to five days. Water, electricity, telephone landlines and gas supply may not be available. Your flood emergency kit should not be stored in the basement.

To keep everyone as comfortable as possible, your waterproof flood emergency kit should contain:

- ☐ Clean drinking water (about 3 litres per person per day) in containers
- ☐ Food (non-perishable, ready-to-eat in sealed containers; should be replaced annually; with manual can opener, disposable plates, cups and cutlery)
- ☐ First-aid kit and manual
- ☐ Bug repellent
- ☐ Crank or battery flashlight with extra batteries, candles, matches, lighters
- ☐ Prescription Medications and any special medical supplies or equipment
- ☐ Water purifying supplies such as chlorine or iodine tablets or unscented, ordinary household bleach
- ☐ Disposable cleaning cloths like baby wipes in case bathing facilities are unavailable
- ☐ Personal hygiene materials like hand sanitizer, soap, toothpaste, sanitary napkins etc.
- ☐ Baby food, and/or formula, diapers and other baby needs
- ☐ Sleeping bags or blankets
- ☐ Emergency phone numbers for insurance company, municipality, all utilities, local hospitals.
- ☐ For your car: Jumper cables, extra blankets, battery or crank flashlight, candles and matches or lighter, battery or crank radio, bottled water, rubber boots, first-aid kit