

Flood Evacuation Check List

Floods are the most common natural disasters in Canada. Home and property flooding can occur anywhere in Manitoba. Getting ready for a flood can help reduce potential harm to your family and property. Use this checklist:

Before the flood

- Store fresh drinking water either in bottles or by filling bathtubs and sinks that have first been sanitized with bleach.
- Plug basement drains and check sewer back-up valves.
- If you have your own septic system, remove toilet bowls and plug basement sewer drains and toilet connections with a wooden stopper.
- Disconnect eaves troughs if they are connected to the house sewer.
- Remove chemical products from the basement and other flood-prone areas to reduce the risk of contamination.
- Move personal items to upper floors.
- Install a sump pump.
- Make plans for the [care or transport of your pets](#).
- Call local municipal authorities before sandbagging or diking buildings.
- Call your Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives office about relocating farm assets such as grain, produce and livestock.
- Put weather protection sealant around basement windows and the base of ground-level doors.
- Check your insurance policy to ensure you have adequate coverage.
- Learn about your municipality's plans for registering and assisting people who may have to leave their homes during the flood.
- Pack a 72-hour emergency kit so it is ready to go if you have to leave in a hurry or if you get stuck inside a ring dike.
- Stock food items that don't require cooking.
- Ensure you have emergency phone numbers for police, fire, ambulance and hydro.
- Know where to turn off the furnace, gas, electricity, etc. in case you need to evacuate.
- Stay in touch with your neighbours and your community. Be prepared to offer support to vulnerable people who may not be connected to home-care or other services.

Have a health care plan

- Keep a two-week supply of prescription medication for yourself and your family members on hand.

- Contact your health care provider for advice if you're receiving special medical care like dialysis or cancer treatment.
- Identify any medical needs of your children, parents or other dependants and write down the details.
- Review your immunization records and know the date of your last tetanus shots.
- If you have medical issues, consider moving to an alternative location with friends or family outside of the flood zone.
- Pregnant women should contact their doctors or midwives about their prenatal care.
- If you use a private well for drinking water, follow the province's [Flood and Well-Water Safety](#) flood fact sheet for details.
- Recognize the signs of [flood-related anxiety and stress](#) and know that help is available.

During the flood

- Turn off basement furnaces and outside gas valves.
- Shut off electricity before flooding has reached your area and only if the electrical panel is completely dry. Do NOT attempt if any water is present.
- Add 2 1/2 litres of chlorine bleach to basement floodwater every few days.
- If you think your drinking water may be contaminated, boil it or use purification tablets BEFORE anyone drinks it. Get more information from the province's [Flood and Well-Water Safety](#) flood fact sheet.
- Use a battery-powered radio to hear up-to-date flood instructions or a mobile device to follow the Manitoba government flood website.
- NEVER try to cross flooded areas on foot or in a vehicle. The water current could be swift and you could be swept away.
- Follow instructions from local officials.

Evacuation

If emergency officials tell you to evacuate, remember to take:

- [your 72-hour emergency kit](#)
- family identification and important legal documents
- contact info for family and friends
- essential medicines and personal health items
- baby formula and diapers for infants and toddlers
- a flashlight
- battery-powered radio
- extra batteries
- waterproof outerwear
- waterproof shoes
- extra clothes
- mobile devices and chargers

On your way to safety

- Listen to the radio for the latest information.
- Keep all receipts for evacuation-related expenses, including home flood-proofing, hotel bills and meals. These will be needed for an insurance or Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) claim.
- Never try to drive on a flooded road.
- If your vehicle stalls in rising water, get out immediately and get to higher ground.
- Stay out of the way of emergency workers and observe roadblocks.
- Always be careful. Flash flooding can happen and you never know what is in or under the water.