

Flooding in Ontario

Flooding in Ontario is typically caused by melting snow, ice jams and heavy rain. It can happen at any time of year and in urban and rural areas. Flash flooding can occur in significant rainstorms, often with little or no warning.

Contacts

- For on-the-ground flood response, such as providing sandbags and debris removal, contact your local municipality. Find your municipality's website: www.ontario.ca/page/list-ontario-municipalities
- For local flood information, visit your local conservation authority's website: conservationontario.ca/conservation-authorities/find-a-conservation-authority
- If your community isn't serviced by a conservation authority, your local Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry work centre provides flood information. Contact your local office: www.ontario.ca/page/ministry-natural-resources-and-forestry-work-centres
- Find the latest flood condition information: www.ontario.ca/floodforecast

Always be flood-ready

To be prepared for any emergency, create a 72-hour [emergency preparedness plan and kit](#) for you and your family.

Put important documents in a safe place. To make an insurance claim or request disaster relief, you'll likely need your latest insurance policies, medical records, social insurance numbers, deeds or mortgages, bank account numbers, birth and marriage certificates, wills and/or recent tax returns.

Basements

- Store any personal belongings in sealed bins
- Keep household chemicals away from areas that are at risk of flooding
- Install check valves in sewer drains to prevent floodwater from backing up into your home
- Test sump pumps regularly and install a back-up system (battery back-up or generator)
- Put weather protection sealant around basement windows and ground-level doors

Outside

- Extend downspouts at least 2 metres from your home to move water away
- Remove debris that could present danger during flood events
- Secure outdoor furniture and items around piers, docks or boathouses
- Regularly maintain water drainage systems, such as weeping tile, culverts and ditches

During a flood

Take immediate action

Monitor your local news for updates. If emergency officials instruct you to evacuate, do so immediately.

If you haven't been asked to evacuate but your property is being flooded and your electricity is on, leave immediately. When moving to a safe place on higher ground:

- avoid traveling on roads that are near any bodies of water
- don't drive through, stand or walk in any moving water
- if you must walk, look for still water and use a stick to check the ground in front of you
- keep children away from water as much as possible

After a flood

Before returning home, check with your local municipality for any information from local public health units, utilities, and other community officials who are working to keep you and your family safe.

- Don't use anything electrical or turn on utilities until someone qualified has told you it's safe to do so
- Avoid contact with any remaining flood water, which is likely contaminated—and never eat food that's been in contact with flood waters
- Report any damaged utility lines to the appropriate authorities
- If your property has been damaged:
 - you may need special permits to rebuild or restore your property: www.ontario.ca/page/maintain-repair-or-replace-erosion-control-structures-shore-lands
 - you may be eligible for provincial assistance: www.ontario.ca/page/apply-disaster-recovery-assistance

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's [Surface Water Monitoring Centre](http://www.ontario.ca/page/surface-water-monitoring-centre) provides current flood and drought information in Ontario, which is shared with ministry offices and conservation authorities for communication to the public. Learn more at www.ontario.ca/page/surface-water-monitoring-centre.