

## Dr R - Oxfordshire

### Detached property

Flooded 2000, 2003 and 2007 Dr R made insurance claims in tens of thousands of pounds in 2000 and 2003. In 2007 the damage was so little they did not claim. After the 2000 flood they put things back as before, thinking they would not flood again for 50 years. Three years and one flood later, they knew differently.

When they flood, water comes up through the floor, so just blocking up outside doors would not solve the problem. So they decided to restore their house in a way that would minimise the damage caused by any future flood. Dr R said 'Being flooded will never be fun, but being more or less flood resilient makes it less stressful' and that his home was back to normal much more quickly.

They were are lucky that the water is pretty clean and noticed that in their neighbours' farmhouse the stone-flagged floor only needed mopping to return to normal. While their insurers assessed our claim on the basis of replacing like with like, they did not mind how they spent the money. So they decided to have stone (travertine) floors, rather than replacing wooden floors. Fortunately they had a concrete slab already.

Fig

1



They have fridge (fig. 1), freezer and washing machine up on platforms with storage space

below. They are actually easier to use at this height! Electrical points are well up off the floor. Kitchen units are anyway on plastic legs. The plinths unclip (common) and can be removed if a flood looks likely. Fig. 1 shows the units with the plinths removed. There was no need for special waterproof units as the water doesn't get deep enough if the pump is doing it's pump is doing its job.

### Sump and pump

Fig 2



At the same time they had a sump (just a pit below floor level, in this case with a plastic drum lining it) dug in one corner of the kitchen, and in which sits a submersible electric pump. Water coming into the house runs across the floor and down through the grating (fig. 1) into the sump below. It's then pumped back out into the garden (fig. 2).

### Flood boards

Fig 3





Dr R could not get ready-made flood boards to fit their door frames so they got a Carpenter to fix grooved hardwood supports either side of the door and at flood time They slide in a marine ply board, with a rubber seal on the lower edge and two brass bolts into the supports to hold it in place - though mastic is still necessary