

Mrs D - Northampton

Two people died, 150 were taken to hospital, and 2,000 properties were devastated by Northampton's Easter floods in 1998.

Mrs D. and her family were among the survivors and she vowed that she would never find herself so vulnerable again.

She checked all of the flood supplies websites but was shocked when she was quoted prices ranging from £600 to £7,500 to protect her home.

Then she discovered that there was a flood protection system that was developed and manufactured nearby ... with prices starting at only £50.

Mrs D. tells what happened next.

"I phoned them up and explained that I had three doors that needed protecting. As they were based only 15 minutes away, they offered to come and give me a free site survey."

"They came along and identified the basic problem, where the overflowing river flooded through my garden gate and then built up to swamp the house."



"They said that all I needed was one standard £50 unit for the garden gate and then we could stop the water even getting into the garden."

"All I had to do was permanently fix a plastic channel either side of the gate, just by fixing eight screws and squirting some mastic to make sure there was a watertight fit to the brickwork."

"The channels are only about an inch deep, so they are very unobtrusive. The panel cuts very easily, even with a handsaw, so I was able to cut it down to give a very good watertight fit in the channels."

"The whole job was done in an hour, and I just keep the channel in the shed – ready for any emergency."



Flood gate in place

"There have been a few of those over the years, but the panel is very light and at times of risk I can slip it into the channels on my own in a matter of seconds. There is a foam rubber strip along the bottom that completes the seal – and that has kept me safe and dry ever since. The best fifty quid I ever spent."