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How do I find out if I'm at risk of flooding and what should I do if I am?

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Am I going to flood?

So that you can best prepare for the possibility of flooding it's a good idea to find out whether your home or business is at risk.

If you have been flooded before you know that your home or business is at risk, but with numbers of flood events on the increase, it is worth checking whether you are in a 'high risk' area.

You can do this by looking at the Environment Agency flood map on the web site: www.environment-agency.gov.uk. If you don't have access to the internet, your local library will do. Help is often available from library staff who know how to use computers.

The Flood Map provides information on flooding from rivers and the sea in England and Wales. It also has information on some of the areas benefiting from flood defences.

It is intended only as a guide - it is not designed to be accurate at the individual property level.

It's aim is to increase awareness among the public, local authorities and other organisations of the likelihood of flooding, and to encourage people living and working in flood prone areas to find out more and take appropriate action.

Log on and Find out More

Once logged onto the Environment Agency site, click once on 'Are you at risk of flooding?', then type in the postcode of your property into the section marked 'flood map' and the system will display a map covering your area. Now click once on the 'learn more' box to find out more information. To find out what level of risk your property might be at click once on the map at the point you are interested in and the level of risk will be displayed – low, moderate or significant.

This means:

Significant:	the chance of flooding in any year is greater than 1.3% (1 in 75)
Moderate:	the chance of flooding in any year is 1.3% (1 in 75) or less, but greater than 0.5% (1 in 200)
Low:	the chance of flooding in any year is 0.5% (1 in 200) or less

The lower the percentage then the less chance there is of flooding in any one year; the higher the percentage then the more chance there is of flooding in any one year.

Flood Map

Will the map be updated?

As new information becomes available, it will be included in quarterly updates to the published Flood Map. These updates take place in January, April, July and October. Flood defences not yet shown will also be gradually added.

What to do if you don't agree with data on the flood map:

If you believe that a particular property is not at flood risk, or if you have information that you believe may not have been taken into account, please contact your local Environment Agency office. They will consider your comments and will advise you on what to do.

What the map doesn't show:

The Flood Map does not provide information on flood depth, speed or volume of flow. It doesn't show flooding from other sources, such as groundwater, direct runoff from fields, or overflowing sewers.

Your local Environment Agency office may have more information on these issues.

Floodline: 0845 988 1188

Floodline is a 24-hour telephone information service operated by the Environment Agency in England and Wales and by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) in Scotland. All calls are charged at local rate.

Floodline operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It provides recorded messages that contain information about any flood warnings that are in force in England, Wales and Scotland.

It also offers immediate practical advice on flood risk and what to do before, during and after a flood. You can also report flood emergencies to Floodline operators.

Useful information:

For those at risk from flooding the Environment Agency publish a range of useful guides offering advice on what to do next, how to help protect your property from flooding, how to deal with a flood should it happen and what to do afterwards.

A special guide is available for the elderly and advice for businesses at risk is available on the website. To obtain hard copies of these information leaflets contact [Floodline](tel:08459881188) on 0845 988 1188.

The NFF offers advice and information on all types of flooding, from main rivers, local watercourses, sewers, storm water and highway drains, tidal and coastal flooding, groundwater, to run-off from urban areas or agricultural land.

We offer free advice to individuals or groups on flood protection products, specialist help, and advice on insurance issues.



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