Flood Preparation Checklist: Home Before the Water

Blank copy

Household and plan header

PREP DATE

PREPARED BY

PROPERTY ADDRESS

OCCUPANCY

PEOPLE IN HOUSEHOLD

PETS OR SERVICE ANIMALS

FLOOD MAP SERVICE CENTER NOTES

EVACUATION DESTINATION OR HIGHER-GROUND PLACE

OUT-OF-AREA CONTACT

HOW THIS HOUSEHOLD GETS FLOOD ALERTS

☐ Household member present for this review

Risk, alerts, and flood insurance

Item	Done	Skip	N/A	Notes
Address looked up on the FEMA Flood Map Service Center	☐	☐	☐	
Household signed up for community flood alerts	☐	☐	☐	
Household can tell a flood watch from a flood warning	☐	☐	☐	
Household knows a standard homeowners or renters policy does not cover flood	☐	☐	☐	
Flood insurance options reviewed, including the typical 30-day wait	☐	☐	☐	
Building coverage and contents coverage discussed if a policy is in play	☐	☐	☐	
Household knows flooding can happen outside mapped high-risk areas	☐	☐	☐	
Policy number and insurer contact stored where you can reach them after a flood	☐	☐	☐	
If a government-backed mortgage is in a high-risk area, lender flood-insurance rules were checked	☐	☐	☐	

Documents and inventory

Item	Done	Skip	N/A	Notes
Paper copies stored in a waterproof, fire-resistant box, safe, or safe-deposit box	☐	☐	☐	
Password-protected digital copies stored off-site or in a secure cloud	☐	☐	☐	
ID, passport, and proof-of-address copies packed or stored	☐	☐	☐	

Home, renters, auto, life, and flood policy copies packed or stored	☐	☐	☐	
Deed, lease, or mortgage papers copied	☐	☐	☐	
Medication list and key medical records copied	☐	☐	☐	
Photo or video inventory of rooms and valuables, with written descriptions	☐	☐	☐	
Document packet can be grabbed in minutes if you evacuate	☐	☐	☐	

Household kit

Item	Done	Skip	N/A	Notes
Drinking water staged at one gallon per person per day	☐	☐	☐	
Non-perishable food and a manual can opener staged	☐	☐	☐	
Battery or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio if you have one	☐	☐	☐	
Flashlight and extra batteries staged (not candles as the main light)	☐	☐	☐	
First aid kit staged	☐	☐	☐	
Prescriptions organized and protected for an outage or evacuation	☐	☐	☐	
Wrench or pliers staged to shut off utilities	☐	☐	☐	
Cell phone chargers and a backup battery staged	☐	☐	☐	
Cash staged for fuel, food, or a short stay if cards fail	☐	☐	☐	
Sanitation and hygiene supplies staged	☐	☐	☐	
Local paper maps staged	☐	☐	☐	
Pet food, water, leash or carrier, and pet-record copies staged	☐	☐	☐	
Kit location is known, and expired food, water, or batteries were replaced	☐	☐	☐	

Evacuation and communication

Item	Done	Skip	N/A	Notes
Household communication plan written, including an out-of-area contact	☐	☐	☐	
Primary and backup evacuation routes known	☐	☐	☐	
Shelter or stay-with plan written, including a pet-friendly place	☐	☐	☐	
Nearby higher-ground place named for flash flooding	☐	☐	☐	
Pets are in the evacuation plan and will not be left behind	☐	☐	☐	
Medications, devices, and access needs listed in the plan	☐	☐	☐	
Household practiced the evacuation or grab-and-go steps	☐	☐	☐	
If you would drive out, the vehicle can leave without a last-minute fuel stop	☐	☐	☐	

Utility shutoff knowledge

Item	Done	Skip	N/A	Notes
Electrical panel and main disconnect located and reachable	☐	☐	☐	
Household knows to shut individual circuits before the main	☐	☐	☐	
Plan is to never stand in water or touch wet gear to cut power	☐	☐	☐	
Main house water shutoff found, tagged, and confirmed it will close	☐	☐	☐	
Gas shutoff procedure learned from the gas company for this meter	☐	☐	☐	
Practice did not actually turn the gas off	☐	☐	☐	
Shutoff tool is at the valve or in the kit	☐	☐	☐	
Household knows when it would shut utilities, and when it would not	☐	☐	☐	
Plan to unplug small appliances while the house is still dry, if you stay	☐	☐	☐	

House protection before water

Item	Done	Skip	N/A	Notes
Valuables and keepsakes have a higher-floor or higher-shelf plan	☐	☐	☐	
Lower-level furniture and electronics have a lift plan	☐	☐	☐	
Furnace, water heater, and panel elevation discussed if they sit in a flood-prone level	☐	☐	☐	
Drains, gutters, and downspouts cleared	☐	☐	☐	
Sewer check valve or backwater valve considered, or already installed	☐	☐	☐	
Sump pump with battery backup considered, or tested if you have one	☐	☐	☐	
Sandbags or plastic sheeting staged if this house would use a temporary barrier	☐	☐	☐	
Plan to bring outdoor furniture, tanks, and chemicals inside or up	☐	☐	☐	
Household knows this list is not an elevation certificate	☐	☐	☐	

When a watch or warning is issued

Item	Done	Skip	N/A	Notes
Household will follow EAS, NOAA Weather Radio, or local officials first	☐	☐	☐	
Household will evacuate when ordered, and will not drive around barricades	☐	☐	☐	
Household will not walk, swim, or drive through floodwater	☐	☐	☐	
Household will stay off bridges over fast-moving water	☐	☐	☐	
If trapped inside, go to the highest safe level, not a closed attic	☐	☐	☐	
Pets come indoors at the first watch or warning	☐	☐	☐	

If a generator is used later, it stays outdoors and away from openings	☐	☐	☐	

Review and sign-off

OPEN ITEMS AND NOTES

KIT STORAGE LOCATION

NEXT REVIEW DATE

PREP RESULT

SIGNATURE

SECOND HOUSEHOLD MEMBER

TIME SIGNED

Reference only. Verify against local codes, a licensed inspector or a qualified contractor.