



LOSS PREVENTION

FLOOD PREPARATION



Recent heavy rainstorms have increased the risk of basement flooding, overland flooding, and localized street flooding, so it is important to prepare before water levels rise. Continuously review local flood updates, clear eavestroughs and downspouts, move valuables and important documents to higher levels, and make sure sump pumps, backwater valves, and basement drains are working properly. It is also wise to have sandbags or other barriers ready if water could enter through low doors, basement windows, or foundation openings.

Flood Pre-Planning

- Ensure that your Emergency Response Plan is up-to-date
- Move furniture and equipment out of the basement to higher levels
- Electrical equipment should be elevated or relocated to a location less likely to be flooded
- Build interior flood walls around utilities
- Ensure electronic information and records are backed up and stored at a safe off-site location
- Make arrangements to move stock, equipment and records from lower levels to safe higher ground or an offsite location if flood risk rises
- Remove all hazardous materials to prevent the risk of pollution of flood waters

Preparing Your Buildings

- Clear sewer drain lines to ensure water from weeping tiles can drain away
- Install a sewer backflow valve, if not equipped, and check to ensure it is operating
- Install a pit and sump pump (if time allows)
- Extend roof drain pipes well away from the building
- Raise ground around the buildings to keep water away from the building
- Seal and waterproof lower level windows and be prepared to cover with sandbags if needed
- Surround properties in a low lying area with a flood wall or an earthen berm
- Keep materials like sandbags, plastic sheets, plywood and lumber handy for emergency waterproofing
- Install water sensors in the lowest area of the buildings (basement / main floor) and connect to the alarm system to give early warning of water problems

Visit www.manitoba.ca/floodinfo/ for up-to-date flood forecasts and announcements.

For more information flood preparation strategies contact our Risk Management Advisors at 1-800-665-8990.