

Flood Evacuation

Floods are the most common natural disasters in Canada. Home and property flooding can occur anywhere in Manitoba. Getting ready for a flood can help reduce potential harm to your family and property. Use this checklist:

Before the flood

- Store fresh drinking water either in bottles or by filling bathtubs and sinks that have first been sanitized with bleach.
- Plug basement drains and check sewer back-up valves.
- If you have your own septic system, remove toilet bowls and plug basement sewer drains and toilet connections with a wooden stopper.
- Disconnect eavestroughs if they are connected to the house sewer.
- Remove chemical products from the basement and other flood-prone areas to reduce the risk of contamination.
- Move personal items to upper floors.
- Install a sump pump.
- Make plans for the care or [transport of your pets](#) and [swine](#) and [beef](#) livestock operations.
- Call local [municipal authorities](#) before sandbagging or diking buildings.
- Call your [Manitoba Agriculture office](#) about relocating farm assets such as grain, produce and livestock.
- Put weather protection sealant around basement windows and the base of ground-level doors.
- Check your insurance policy to ensure you have adequate coverage.
- Learn about your municipality's plans for registering and assisting people who may have to leave their homes during the flood.
- Pack a 72-hour emergency kit so it is ready to go if you have to leave in a hurry or if you get stuck inside a ring dike.
- Stock food items that don't require cooking.
- Ensure you have emergency phone numbers for police, fire, ambulance and hydro.
- Know where to turn off the furnace, gas, electricity, etc. in case you need to evacuate.
- Stay in touch with your neighbours and your community. Be prepared to offer support to vulnerable people who may not be connected to home-care or other services.

Have a health care plan

- Keep a two-week supply of prescription medication for yourself and your family members on hand.
- Contact your health care provider for advice if you're receiving special medical care like dialysis or cancer treatment.
- Identify any medical needs of your children, parents or other dependants and write down the details.
- Review your immunization records and know the date of your last tetanus shots.
- If you have medical issues, consider moving to an alternative location with friends or family outside of the flood zone.
- Pregnant women should contact their doctors or midwives about their prenatal care.
- If you use a private well for drinking water, follow the province's [Flood and Well-Water Safety](#) flood fact sheet for details.
- Recognize the signs of [flood-related anxiety and stress](#) and know that help is available.

During the flood

- Turn off basement furnaces and outside gas valves.
- Shut off electricity before flooding has reached your area and only if the electrical panel is completely dry. Do NOT attempt if any water is present.
- Add two and a half litres of chlorine bleach to basement floodwater every few days.
- If you think your drinking water may be contaminated, boil it or use purification tablets BEFORE anyone drinks it. Get more information from the province's [Flood and Well-Water Safety](#) flood fact sheet.
- Use a battery-powered radio to hear up-to-date flood instructions or a mobile device to follow the Manitoba government flood website.
- NEVER try to cross flooded areas on foot or in a vehicle. The water current could be swift and you could be swept away.
- Follow instructions from local officials.

Evacuation

If emergency officials tell you to evacuate, remember to take:

- [your 72-hour emergency kit](#).
- family identification and important legal documents, including home or content insurance documents.
- contact info for family and friends.
- essential medicines and personal health items.
- baby formula and diapers for infants and toddlers.

- money and credit cards.
- pet vaccination records, if you are planning to bring your pets to a kennel.
- a flashlight.
- battery-powered radio.
- extra batteries.
- waterproof outerwear.
- waterproof shoes.
- extra clothes.
- mobile devices and chargers

On your way to safety

- Listen to the radio for the latest information.
- Keep all receipts for evacuation-related expenses, including home flood-proofing, hotel bills and meals. These will be needed for an insurance or Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) claim.
- Never try to drive on a flooded road.
- If your vehicle stalls in rising water, get out immediately and get to higher ground.
- Stay out of the way of emergency workers and observe roadblocks.
- Always be careful. Flash flooding can happen and you never know what is in or under the water.

Check road conditions

For the most recent information on road conditions or highway safety, visit manitoba511.ca, call 511 or follow the Twitter account for road closures at twitter.com/MBGovRoads. A Manitoba 511 app is now available for download from the Manitoba resident portal at: <http://residents.gov.mb.ca/apps/511.html>.

For the latest up-to-date flood information, visit manitoba.ca/flooding or follow the Twitter account twitter.com/MBGov.