



Conditions that cause floods include heavy or steady rain for several hours or days that saturates the ground.

Flash floods occur suddenly due to rapidly rising water along a stream or low-lying area.



- **Flood Watch:**

Flooding is possible. Tune in to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for information.

- **Flash Flood Watch:**

Flash flooding is possible. Be prepared to move to higher ground; listen to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for information.

- **Flood Warning:**

Flooding is occurring or will occur soon; if advised to evacuate, do so immediately.

- **Flash Flood Warning:**

A flash flood is occurring; seek higher ground on foot immediately.

Before a Flood — Make a Plan

Floods can happen anywhere it rains.



BUY FLOOD INSURANCE

Learn your flood risk and find an agent near you with the One-Step Flood Risk Profile at [FloodSmart.gov](https://www.floodsmart.gov). Typically, it takes 30 days for a new flood insurance policy to take effect, so get or renew your policy now.



KNOW YOUR STUFF

Thoroughly document your belongings to support a flood insurance claim. Visit [knowyourstuff.org](https://www.knowyourstuff.org) to create your home inventory.



MAKE A PLAN

Create and share a family emergency plan. Make sure it includes evacuation routes from home, work, and school. Assemble a safety kit with drinking water, canned food, first aid supplies, blankets, a radio, and a flashlight. Learn more at [ready.gov/floods](https://www.ready.gov/floods).



During a Flood — Be Safe

Floods can happen anywhere it rains.



MOVE TO HIGH GROUND

When it floods, go to higher ground. Avoid areas subject to flooding. Be aware of streams, drainage channels, and areas known to flood, so you are not cut off from your evacuation routes.



WATCH OUT FOR WATER

Don't walk across flowing streams or drive on flooded roads. Moving water just 6 inches deep can knock you off your feet and cause an injury. Even 2 feet of water is enough to sweep a car off the road.



LISTEN FOR UPDATES

Listen to the radio or TV for information. Be sure to follow the instructions of local authorities.



TURN OFF POWER

Turn off all utilities at the main power switch and close the main gas valve if advised to do so. Don't touch any electrical devices if you're wet or in standing water.



If you have an emergency, always

CALL
9-1-1

After a Flood — Recover Quickly

Floods can happen anywhere it rains.



CHECK FOR DAMAGE

Check for structural damage before re-entering your home. If you suspect damage to water, gas, electric, or sewer lines, contact authorities.



REMOVE WET ITEMS

Immediately remove wet carpeting, furniture, and bedding. Any item holding moisture can develop mold within 24 to 48 hours. Clean and disinfect everything touched by floodwaters. Get cleanup tips at emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/floods.



PLAN BEFORE YOU REPAIR

The rebuilding decisions you make now to lower your risk and insurance costs can result in big benefits over the long term. Contact your local building inspection or planning office or your county clerk's office to get more information.



FILE YOUR FLOOD CLAIM

To file your claim, you'll need your insurance company's name, your policy number, and a number where you can be reached. Take photos of any water in the house and anything damaged in your home. Make a detailed list of all damaged or lost items.



REPORT DAMAGE

Property damage caused by flooding should be reported to the Yakima Fire Department by calling 575-6060.

