

Prepare for a Flood



COLCHESTER
REGIONAL
EMO



72 Hours

Nova Scotians are encouraged to be ready to cope on their own for at least the first 72 hours of an emergency

April 2021

Causes: Heavy rainfalls, sudden ice thaws, hurricanes (coastal), storm surges (coastal).

Prepare

Identify flood prone areas near you.

Check your 72 hour safety kit to make sure nothing is missing or expired.

Sign up for alerts from Alert TC to know if you are at risk.

Tie down or bring in items from outside prior to a storm.

In case loss of power will occur and your home uses a well for water, fill your bathtub with water for washing, flushing and cleaning.

Set aside a supply of drinking water in case of contamination.

Remove chemicals from your basement.

Put all important documents inside a water proof container.

Move important belongings higher from the floor.

During

Gather emergency supplies and monitor Alert TC, the radio, and Municipal social media for updates.

Unplug appliances to prevent electrical shock when the power comes back on.

Do NOT drive or walk across flooded roads. Cars and people can be swept away.

Stay off bridges over high fast moving water.

If your home is flooded, turn off your furnace and shut off outside propane tanks.

Turn off the electrical power if your panel is safe to access.

Do NOT go in water where contact has been made with electrical equipment.

Evacuate immediately if advised.

After

Listen to the authorities for information and instruction.

Avoid driving except in emergencies.

If power was disconnected, do NOT enter your home until an electrician has determined it is safe to do so.

Do NOT use any appliances that have been exposed to water until they have been inspected by an electrician or service technician.

Avoid wading in flood water.

Wear rubber boots and plastic gloves for cleanup.

If your home is serviced by a well, have your water tested before drinking.

Contact your insurance company if water damage has occurred.

Dispose of contaminated materials in accordance with local laws.



Flood Checklist

During a Flood

- Monitor Municipal and Provincial Emergency social media sites as well as Alert TC (Alert Truro/ Colchester).
- Keep your emergency kit close at hand, in a portable container such as a duffel bag, backpack, or suitcase with wheels.

If you need to Evacuate:

- Vacate your home when you are advised to do so by local emergency authorities. Ignoring such a warning could jeopardize the safety of your family or those who might eventually have to come to your rescue.
- Take your emergency kit with you.
- Follow the routes specified by officials. Don't take shortcuts. They could lead you to a blocked or dangerous area.
- Make arrangements for pets.

Remember * Never Cross a Flooded Area

If you are on foot, fast water could sweep you away.

If you are in a car, do not drive through flood waters or underpasses. The water may be deeper than it looks.

Avoid crossing bridges if the water is high and flowing quickly.

After a Flood

- Do not return home until authorities have advised that it is safe to do so.
- If the main power switch was not turned off prior to flooding, do not re-enter your home until a qualified electrician has determined it is safe to do so.
- Use extreme caution when returning to your home after a flood.
- Appliances that may have been flooded pose a risk of shock or fire when turned on. Do not use any appliances, heating, pressure, or sewage system until electrical components have been thoroughly cleaned, dried, and inspected by a qualified electrician or service technician.
- The main electrical panel must be cleaned, dried, and tested by a qualified electrician to ensure that it is safe.
- If your home flooded and power was disconnected, listen to local authorities on the process of reconnecting power to your home.