

Flood Protection

Prepare your Emergency Flood Plan

The City of Burnside is prone to flooding in some areas from Park Lands, First, Second, Stonyfell and Third Creeks.



If your property is near a watercourse or is low-lying, it could be flooded, even if you have never seen floodwaters there.

To minimise your risk of flood damage before flooding occurs, there are a few simple things you and your family can do to stay safe and protect your property.

Prepare your family

The best help is self help.

Plan ahead now and decide what you and your family will do in a flood.

To protect yourself and to minimise the damage from flooding it is essential that you and your family establish an Emergency Flood Plan.



Emergency Flood Plan

Your Emergency Flood Plan should include:

- A list of what you need to do before, during and after a flood.
- A list of which items to raise if water threatens your home.
- A list of dangerous items (eg chemicals) that will need to be elevated or waterproofed.
- Details on where you would meet or how to contact each other, if you were separated in an emergency.
- Information on how to access flood warnings and what they mean.
- Information on how to seal all the openings in your home such as doors and wall vents.
- A list of important phone numbers.
- An Emergency Flood Kit.

Each member of your family should be aware of your emergency plan and emergency kit, and where it is kept.

As part of your preparation, find out what your flood risk is and what floods have occurred in your area before.

Council can assist with this information.



Emergency Flood Kit

- First aid kit.
- Torches (at least 2).
- Battery operated portable radio.
- Spare batteries (for above).
- Rubber boots/Gloves/Dry clothing.
- List of emergency contact numbers.
- A copy of your Emergency Flood Plan.
- Water proof bag for valuables.
- Candles and water proof matches.
- Important papers such as your insurance policy.

If you have to evacuate, add to your emergency flood kit:

- A good supply of required medication.
- Any special requirements for babies, the disabled, infirm and/or elderly.
- Strong shoes.
- Fresh food and drinks.



Safeguard your home

For expected flood levels of one metre or less, flood proof your home using flood shields to stop water entering through doors and gates.

These can be made in advance from 22mm thick timber panels that can easily be held in place with screws or sandbags.

For expected flood levels of over one metre, consult an engineer prior to using flood shields to assess the threat of walls collapsing under the water pressure.



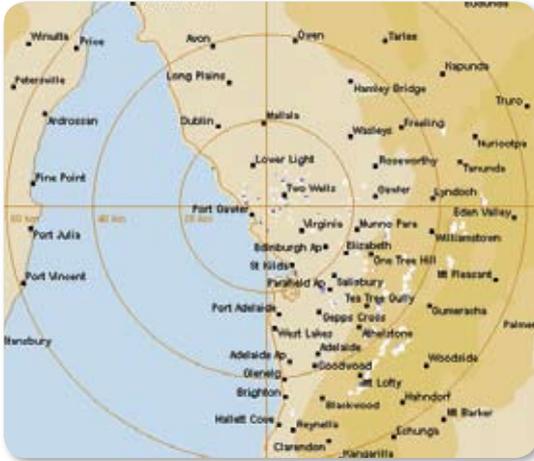
A similar treatment can be used to seal external wall vents.

Door and window seals can also be fitted to stop water entering your homes.

In ground-level rooms, consider alternatives to carpets such as rugs.

Consider the use of tiled floors and walls, as they are less likely to be damaged and are easily cleaned.





Before a flood

Stay informed, listen and watch for Bureau of Meteorology Flood Warnings.

Keep an eye on the weather, unusually heavy rain is a good indication that flooding may occur.

- Advise neighbours and friends of any impending flood and offer assistance when possible.
- Secure hazardous items.
- Monitor Bureau of Meteorology forecasts and warnings via their website or radio 891 ABC Adelaide.
- Move electrical appliances to a higher level.
- Move important documents, personal effects and vital medical supplies to a safe and easily accessible place with your emergency flood kit in case you have to evacuate.
- Place furniture on beds and personal items on the furniture.
- Secure any item that may become buoyant in your yard (gas bottles, drums, timber, etc).
- Locate pets and ensure they are safe.



Immediately before & during a flood

- If flood water is going to enter your home, turn off electricity at the switchboard.
- Turn off the main gas valve at the meter or gas bottle.
- Turn off the water at the water meter.
- Block toilet bowls with a strong plastic bag filled with earth or sand to prevent a back flow of sewage into your home.
- If you are inside your home, stay there until advised otherwise. Shelter in the highest part of the building.
- Be prepared to leave your home and climb to higher ground if necessary.
- If you are away from your home, do not try to return until you are sure it is safe.
- If you evacuate, ensure you tell a neighbour or friend where you are going.
- Keep listening to a local radio station eg, 891 ABC Adelaide for further information and advice.



Driving, riding & walking in flood waters

Never drive, ride or walk in flood water.

This is the main cause of death during floods, as water may be deeper or faster flowing than you think and contain hidden snags and debris.

If flood waters rise around your car, get out and move to higher ground immediately.

Cars can be easily swept away in moving water.

After a flood

Flood dangers do not end when flood waters begin to recede.

- Before entering your property make sure it is safe to do so.
- Do not turn on any lights or appliances until a qualified electrician has checked the entire electrical system in your home, including appliances.
- Do not turn on any gas appliance until a qualified gas fitter has checked the entire gas system in your home.
- Wait until the water has dropped below floor level.
- Look out for potential slips, trips and falls due to mud and water.
- Look out for venomous spiders and snakes.
- Look out for hazardous debris.
- Wear strong non-slip footwear, protective clothing and puncture resistant gloves while cleaning up. Use disinfectant.
- Keep away from areas where power lines, trees or debris has fallen.

Before, during & after a flood

- Do not ignore flood warnings.
- Do not drink flood water.
- Do not eat food that has been in flood water.
- Do not play in flood water.
- Never drive, ride or walk in flood water.
- Do not use any electrical or gas system or appliance until checked by an electrician or gas fitter.

Flood warning

The Bureau of Meteorology provides information on current weather forecasts and warnings via their website or by telephone.

Website: www.bom.gov.au/weather/sa

Land, Weather and Flood Warnings

Phone: 1300 659 215

Metro Area Forecasts

Phone: 1196

Emergency assistance

For assistance during a flooding event or other emergencies contact the [State Emergency Service](#) on 132 500.

Further information

For further information on what you can do to help yourself during a flood contact:

State Emergency Service

GPO Box 2760, Adelaide SA 5001

Phone: 8463 4171 (during office hours)

Fax: 8410 3115

Website: www.ses.sa.gov.au

The City of Burnside

401 Greenhill Road, Tasmore SA 5065

Phone: 8366 4200

Fax: 8366 4299

Website: www.burnside.sa.gov.au

Email: burnside@burnside.sa.gov.au