

Floods: General Tips for Reducing Flood and Water Damage Inside the Home

General Tips: Reducing Water and Flood Damage Inside the Home

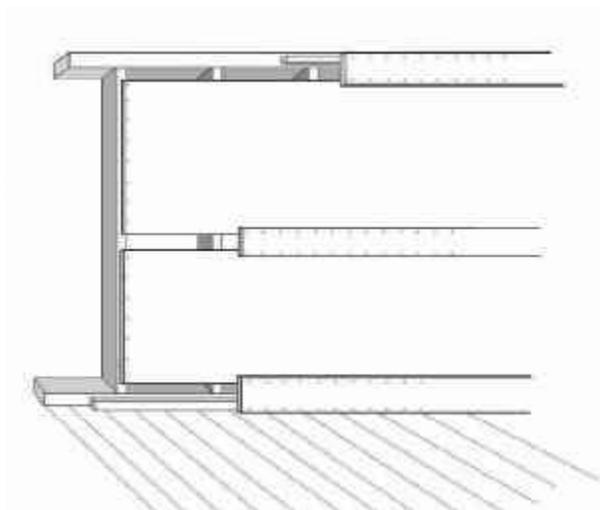
There are changes you can make to reduce the potential water and flood damage in your home.

- 1) Move items up and out of harm's way.
- 2) Allow materials to drain and dry faster.
- 3) Make repairs easier to do.

Check with your local code and housing officials, insurance representative and floodplain manager to ensure the changes meet regulations before making any changes.

Raising Utility Systems

- Raise the main breaker or fuse box and the utility meter above the potential flood level for your home or to a higher floor.
- Raise outlets and switches to higher levels in rooms if allowed by local or state codes.
- Install Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters to prevent electrical hazards.



University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, Shirley Niemeyer.
levels, a higher floor, or to the attic. Floor reinforcements may be needed to
transform above potential water levels.
be relocated to higher floors or raised onto secure platforms inside the lower
prevent water damage from leaks. Floor reinforcement may be needed.
on sturdy platforms and raise them up from the existing floor level.
to protect against shallow water if the equipment cannot be raised. A
using plastic and waterproofing products. However, the exterior water pressure

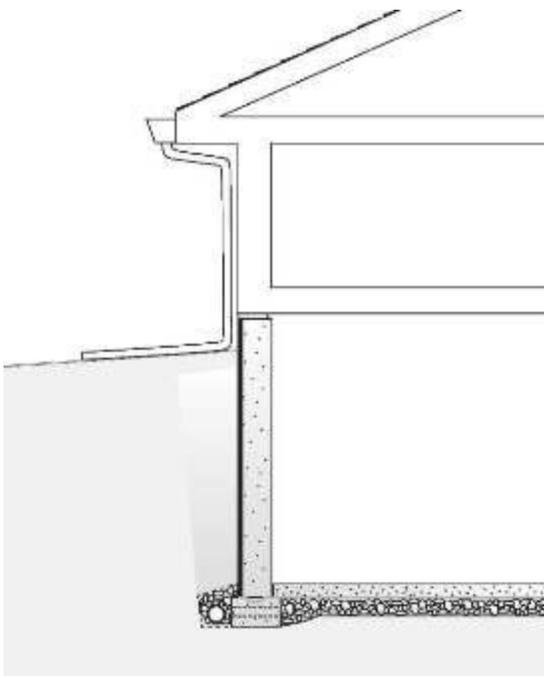
Horizontal installation of wallboard or cement board leaving gaps for drying. Illustration: University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, Lisa Comes.

Make Repairs Easier and to Allow for Faster Drying

- Place the non-paper gypsum wallboard or cement board horizontally on the wall to make it easier to remove, if only the lower portion has been damaged or is wet. If the water level is less than a couple of feet, you may need to remove only the lower wallboard. Wicking frequently will wet wallboard a couple of feet above the water level. Mold may occur within a wall cavity that is wet.
- Leave a gap between the lower and upper horizontal wallboards to allow for drying and to prevent wicking between the two. Caulk the gap to reduce moisture wicking from one wallboard to the other. Cover the gap with a trim or railing that is easy to remove for faster drying.
- Leave a gap at the bottom of the gypsum wallboard to allow for drainage and drying.
- Attach floor moldings for easy removal and to allow inner wall cavities to drain and dry.
- Metal studs and sill plates that are corrosion resistant may be easier to clean.
- Use flooring materials, such as tiles and concrete, that resist water damage. If you think you must use soft coverings (carpet), use area rugs that can be rolled up and removed before the water enters. Rugs are also easier to clean because they can be moved outside to dry and to be cleaned professionally. Another floor covering that may be used is unattached indoor-outdoor carpet. Installed carpets and pads are usually removed and disposed of after a water or flood event unless the water is clean water and a minor water event.

Other Actions

- Install check valves or back-flow valves in plumbing and sanitary sewer lines to prevent floodwater from backing up into the drains.



es and dishwashers. Replace the standard hose with a reinforced hose and install
ices are available. Some sound an alert. Some are attached to a water shut off device
break. Other systems monitor the water entering the home and if the usual amounts
some plastics can be tightly sealed in plastic bags in sturdy plastic storage
its for moisture and mold. Mold can result if humidity levels are high.
them high off the floor where they will be less likely to be damaged by water.
first floor if it is subject to flooding.
another location, in a safety deposit box, or with relatives or friends outside the
: sufficient time, consider temporarily moving those items that are most meaningful
high-risk area.
me for a minimum of 10 feet will reduce foundation leakage. The ground or lot

5 percent to 10 percent slope away from foundation for minimum of 10 feet. Continue slope away. Sketch: University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, Communication & Information Technology.

Summary

By planning for a potential water or flood event, you can prevent some damage to interior contents and reduce the loss of important items. Consult with your local or area disaster management officials about other recommendations for your area.

Resources

American Red Cross Organization. [Repairing Your Flooded Home](#). Chapter 8.
James, Mary. (2006). [Hurricane Season-Again](#). Home Energy Magazine pp. 1-4.

Compliments of Buchanan County Extension
2600 Swan Lake Blvd., Suite A
Independence, IA 50644
(319) 334-7161
(319) 334-6641 (fax)