

From Norfolk Be Prepared: surface water flooding

You may have taken some measures to protect your property, but if surface water flooding occurs and you are totally unprotected, there are some simple swift actions you can take by using items that you may well have around your home. For example, bin bags taped to the bottom of the outside door frame and weighed down with compost bags, carrier bags filled with soil, or something weighty, together with towels placed along the inside of the door could help to reduce the amount of water entering your home. Sandbags are not provided to the public for surface water flooding incidents and are not encouraged as a flood preventative measure as they are heavy, difficult to handle and not effective on their own.

In the event of a flash flood

- Never put yourself in any danger
 - If you are at immediate risk of flooding and water is entering your premises, call 999 and ask for the Fire Service
- Block any air bricks to prevent flood water coming in
 - Move pets and valuable items upstairs or to a place of safety
- Avoid walking, cycling or driving through flood water. There could be hidden dangers like sharp objects, raised manhole covers and could be polluted. If you take unnecessary risks, like driving along a flooded road when you don't know how deep it is and getting stuck, you add to the burden on the emergency services and may put other lives at risk
- Turn off the electricity and gas supply until a qualified electrician or engineer has inspected them. Don't touch any electrical appliances, cables or equipment while standing in flood water, or any appliances that have been immersed in flood water
- Avoid contact with flood water and wash your hands regularly with clean water and soap. Swallowing flood water or mud can cause diarrhoea, fever or abdominal pain