

Address: _____



DISASTER-SPECIFIC CHECKLISTS

Flood

Review these considerations with your real estate agent, home inspector, contractor, or other trusted advisor if the home is likely to experience a flood.

Location Checklist

- Is the home likely to flood? YES NO
- Is the home located in a FEMA-designated flood zone? YES NO
 - » Zones beginning with V or A indicate the highest level of risk. Zones B, C, and X have a moderate to low risk, but be aware that these designations may change and that flood zone designations do not capture the full potential of flood risk in a given location.
- Is there a flood history of your potential home and homes nearby? YES NO
- Was the location once a floodplain, swamp, filled creek, riverbed, lake, or part of the sea or ocean? YES NO
- Is the home located near a dam, levee, or other water defense infrastructure whose failure or malfunction could result in flooding? YES NO
- Is the home located near a tsunami inundation, hazard, or evacuation zone? YES NO

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, speak with a qualified, licensed engineer, inspector, or local code official to determine the best course of action to protect your home from disasters OR consider a home in another location.

Construction Checklist

Determine the flood zone of the home and note that homes outside of a flood zone can still flood, especially in hurricanes. The best flood preparedness plan includes structural mitigation, as well as flood insurance.

- Hydrostatic flood vents are installed.
 - » A home's elevation certificate will provide information like the number and location of vents and the total amount of vented space.
- You have an elevation certificate that reflects the base flood elevation (BFE) or expected flood level for the property.
 - » If you don't have this information, you may be able to secure it from local floodplain officials, the planning and zoning office, or the builder; or you can hire a licensed surveyor to prepare one.
- The home is built on an elevated foundation.
 - » If so, is it a pile, pier, or another type of foundation? YES NO
- Appliances, including the water heater, air conditioning unit, and furnace, are above projected level of flooding for the location.
- Receptacles, lights, and switches are elevated above the base flood evaluation (BFE) or expected flood level.
- There is a backflow valve to prevent sewage from coming back into the home in case the municipal system fails due to flooding.

Depending on the age of the home, you may want to undertake certain structural retrofits and upgrades at the time of purchase. Flood-specific options include:

- Elevating the lowest floor.
- Providing flood protection for utilities and mechanical equipment.
- Installing backflow preventers.
- Installing flood vents.
- Anchoring fuel tanks.
- Adding a sump pump with backup power.
- Improving the basement/foundation wall drainage.

Maintain your home to keep it ready for a flood by:

- Checking the water flow around the property after a storm to ensure proper rainwater flow and drainage away from the home.
- Cleaning gutters and positioning downspouts to allow water to flow away from your home's foundation.
- Securing any loose items in your yard as they can become water-borne debris during flooding from storm surge or rising water.
- Anchoring fuel tanks and other outside appliances or placing them on platforms as they can detach, float, and spill hazardous waste.