

04

In the event of a flood



Fact: Scientists predict that climate change may lead to more frequent flooding in the future.

In the event of a flood



If a flood threatens your area there are a number of steps you can take to minimise damage to your property, but **remember safety should always be your first concern.**

- ◆ Don't try to walk or drive through floodwater.
- ◆ Avoid contact with floodwater if possible as it may be contaminated or polluted.
- ◆ Take care when walking through shallow water – manhole covers may have come off and there may be other underwater hazards that you cannot see.
- ◆ Never try to swim through fast-flowing water – you may get swept away or struck by an object in the water.
- ◆ Always wear suitable clothing when working in or near floodwater.

Inside your house

- ◆ Move valuables and other items to safety. Place them above the flood level or upstairs.
- ◆ Empty the contents of furniture that cannot be moved and put them upstairs.
- ◆ Remove curtains if there is time – if not tie them over the curtain rail.
- ◆ Put sandbags at any openings where the water could gain access.
- ◆ Turn off gas and electricity.
- ◆ Disconnect cookers, washing machines, dishwashers, etc. connected by ridged pipes to prevent damaging the machine and the pipes.
- ◆ Store any electrical items upstairs or above flood level.
- ◆ Have medication to hand (if needed).

Outside your house

- ◆ Move your car to high ground if possible.
- ◆ Move any items kept outside, such as garden furniture, to higher ground. Remember that floodwater could get into your garage so move any chemicals or fuel to ensure that they do not spill into the floodwater and cause damage.
- ◆ Unplug any exterior electrical connections such as outdoor lighting, pond pumps and filters.