



Flood Mitigation - Debris Control

Debris control is probably not the first thing people think of when they hear that their area may be in for some flooding. But it is another necessary practice to partake in to keep property damage to a minimum. Items left outside unsecured can be lost, or become projectiles and bring further damage to structures.

Here are some tips to get you started thinking about debris control:



Ways to be Prepared

- Manage your flood insurance
 - Do you have it? Do you need it? Is it enough?
- Have space set aside for items that are regularly kept outside to be stored indoors
- Don't keep items outside if you do not have to
- Have rope, chains, or bungee cords readily available if things need to be tied down
- Stay on top of pruning and trimming vegetation on your property
 - Branches can come loose and be destructive
- Manufactured or mobile homes should be raised above or just kept out of the floodplain¹
 - If this is not possible they should be anchored
- Keep hazardous materials out of the floodplain altogether
 - This includes petroleum and chemicals

Actions to Take When a Flood Watch is Announced

- Bring outdoor furniture and other items indoors
 - Plants, toys, trashcans, etc.²
 - These can get swept away and be lost
 - They can also cause damage should they be carried away and collide with other objects
- Move valuable items to the upper levels of your home
- If possible, bring inside charcoal and gas grills but do not use them³
 - If not possible, secure them outdoors
 - Propane tanks should be secured outdoors
- Big and bulky items should be anchored to something solid
- If there are containers of hazardous materials on your property, they need to be anchored to a secure structure
 - This will help to reduce the chances of water contamination



¹ FEMA. 2002. "Mitigation Ideas: Possible Mitigation Measures by Hazard Type." Retrieved Jan, 28, 2021. https://www.co.goodhue.mn.us/DocumentCenter/View/1730/Mitigation-Ideas_-_Possible-Mitigation-Measures-by-Hazard-Type?bidId=

² Home Depot. 2021. "How to Prepare for a Flood". Retrieved Jan 28, 2021. <https://www.homedepot.com/c/ah/how-to-prepare-for-a-flood/9ba683603be9fa5395fab90e40527b3>

³ The Spruce. 2020. "How to Prepare Your Pool and Yard Before a Storm". Retrieved Jan 29, 2021. <https://www.thespruce.com/protect-your-home-before-a-storm-2737029>

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