

7 TIPS TO HELP YOU PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY FROM HEAVY RAINS AND FLOODING.

After heavy rains, excess water can overflow the banks of lakes, streams and rivers, causing flooding and property damage. It can happen anytime, anywhere. So, it's important for you to be prepared for this type of flooding.

1 Rearrange Downspouts

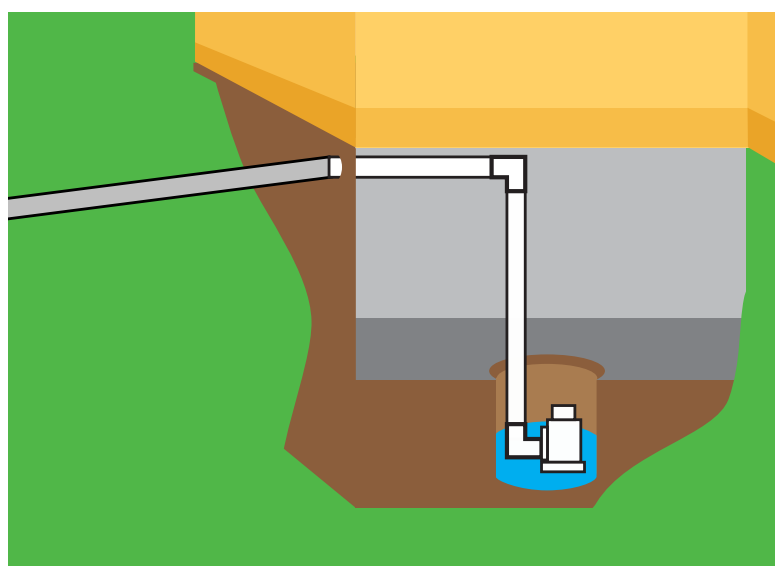
Downspouts should carry water several feet away from your property to a well-drained area.



2 Check Your Sump Pump

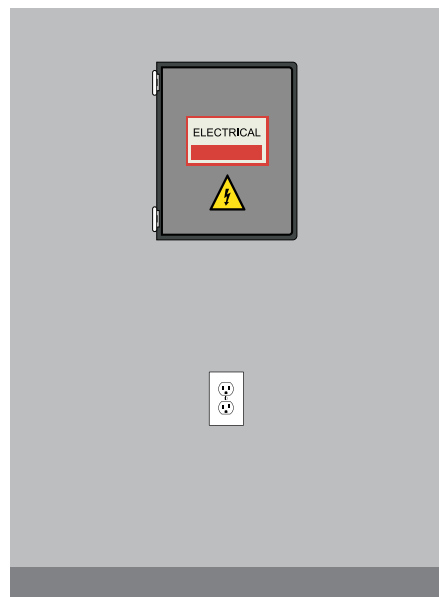
Perform a checkup on your sump pump, if you have one.

- Examine and clean the pump.
- Then pour water into the pit to make sure the discharge hose carries it away from your property to a well-drained area.
- Be sure the pipe is on sloped ground so it drains well.



3 Secure Fuel Tanks

Anchor fuel tanks in basements and outside properties. Unanchored tanks can be torn free by floodwater, and the broken supply line can contaminate your basement. An outside tank can be swept downstream and damage other property.



4 Check All Electrical Components

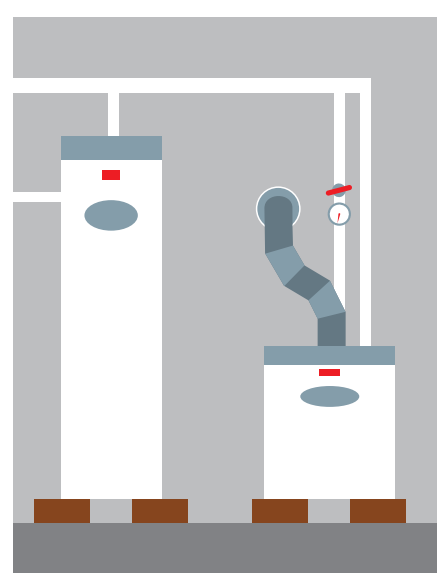
Make sure they are 12 inches above the flood line.

- Measure the height of electrical components, such as switches, sockets, circuit breakers and wiring.
- Contact a licensed electrician to make changes if necessary.

5 Elevate!

Your furnace and water heater should be 12 inches from the floor.

- Place them on top of masonry blocks, concrete or pressure-treated lumber.
- Do the same with your washer and dryer if they're in your basement.



6 Practice Makes Perfect

Practice flood evacuation with your family.

- Plan a route that everyone knows, and practice taking it.
- Identify an out-of-state relative or family friend to contact in case your family is separated during a serious flood.
- Make sure everyone in the family knows the name, address and phone number of the contact.

7 Tighten Window Wells

Make sure window wells at ground level are watertight.

Window covers that can be bolted in place are most effective in keeping water out.



For more information, visit: thehartford.com/flood



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