

# Flood Prevention Measures



In 2021, flash flooding inundated parts of London after a month's worth of rain fell in three hours. Severe weather events are likely to become more common as the impacts of Climate Change continue. Flash flooding can occur after drainage systems and waterways are overwhelmed, during intense rainfall or following heavy snowfall when snow and ice begins to melt.

Flooding causes disruption to vital infrastructure such as public transport and emergency services, damages property and people's livelihoods, and in some extreme cases causes serious harm and even death. By installing flood prevention measures, homeowners can play their part to reduce the risk of flooding and help to protect their homes and community.

A selection of measures are on display in this property;



## 1. Water Butts

- Water butts can help to capture and store rainwater during a storm to prevent a surge on the drainage system. These are inexpensive, easy to install, and provide an on-demand source of free water for use in the garden.
- By connecting the water butt to a property's downpipe through a Rain Diverter Kit, rain from the roof will feed into this butt, and when full the butt will discharge excess water into the mains drainage system.
- Waterwise estimated that outdoor water use accounts for around 7% of the total water use, but in the summer this can rise to over 50% of peak demand. Used correctly, a water butt can provide all the water to keep a garden alive throughout the long hot summer months.
- Water butts come in different sizes (typically between 50 to 300 litres) and colours to meet the needs of a property.
- According to Waterwise, if every household in the UK installed a standard water butt this would save about 30,000 million litres of water each summer.
- A water butt is installed at the rear of the property.

## 2. Flood Cube

- The Flood Cube provides a cost effective and temporary flood barrier to help protect properties from damage and loss caused by surface water flooding. It is not only effective at forming a barrier, but can also be used to divert the flow of water. The lightweight construction and integrated handles allow for effortless handling, and this can be a lot easier to install than traditional flood barriers such as sand bags.
- To activate, the cubes are submerged in fresh water or soaked with a hosepipe. Within five minutes the cubes will be fully activated and can be stacked in a wall as high as one and a half metres. After use the internal, non-toxic material can be dispersed into the ground.
- These cubes are vacuum packed to allow for easy storage and have a shelf life of five years. These cubes can only be used once.
- The cost for a pack of 20 inflatable cubes is £175.



## 3. Permeable Paving and Gardens

- If rain falls onto a hard surface, like concrete, block paving, or artificial grass, it is unable to soak away often leading to surface water flooding. Whereas, if rain falls onto grassy surfaces, planted areas, or permeable paving like gravel it will be absorbed until the land is saturated.
- If a lawn has bare patches of soil, these can become compacted during rain, and struggle to absorb water. By ensuring a lawn does not have many bare patches, the risk of surface water flooding can be reduced.
- Large leafy plants, shrubs and trees scattered throughout your garden will absorb groundwater through their roots and catch some water on their leaves. They'll also help to shelter bare ground, saving it from damage from intense rainfall.

Waltham Forest ServiceStore can visit your property to recommend flood prevention measures and arrange the installation. For more information please visit [walthamforestservicestore.co.uk](http://walthamforestservicestore.co.uk)

## 4. Air Brick Covers

- These inexpensive covers fit over existing air bricks to stop flood water entering the property.
- A cover is fitted onto an airbrick at the rear of the property.
- The cost of each unit is £80 to supply and fit.

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There are further measures a homeowner can consider to prevent the risk of flood.



## 1. Non-Return Valves

- The valves automatically close to prevent the backflow of sewage through a downstairs toilet in a flood event.
- A similar “Back Water” valve can be installed on wastewater pipes such as a kitchen sink, downstairs shower, washing machine and dishwasher pipe.



## 2. Anti-flood Air Bricks

- Anti-flood Air Bricks use rising water to automatically shut off, inhibiting water ingress through the air bricks and therefore preventing flooding underneath the property.
- Anti-flood air bricks are engineered to act like a standard air brick in normal weather conditions, ensuring unrestricted airflow underneath the property.



## 3. Flood Barriers and Gates

- Flood Barriers are suitable to all types of openings, from single doors to larger openings such as roller shutters or driveways. There are no width or height limitations due to modular designs.
- Easy to maintain and operated manually by one person, flood gates are a quick and optimal deployment option for all door openings.



### Tips to reduce the risk of damage from flooding include;

1. **Replace at risk carpeted areas** inside a home with tiles.
2. **Move electrical sockets higher up the wall** to a height of one and a half metres.
3. **Sign up to the Met Office free flood warning system** by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings> or download the Met Office's App.
4. **Check the long-term flood risk for your home** by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/check-long-term-flood-risk>

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