

# BE FLOOD SMART THIS WINTER

Flooding can happen in any season. It's important to be ready to protect yourself and your home. Here are a few simple tips to help keep your home dry this winter.

## KNOW YOUR OWN RISKS

Take a walk in and around your home to see where it might be at risk. Look at your community flood maps. Sign-up for weather alerts to know if flooding is happening or might happen near you. Read your insurance policy or talk to your insurance provider to know if your home is covered against all types of flooding.

Keep a shovel handy to move snow away from your home's foundation to prevent water from getting into your basement. Hire a contractor to scoop heavy snow and ice from your roof.

## MOVE THE SNOW

## CLEAR THE DEBRIS

Leaves, dirt and ice can block water from moving through your eavestroughs, gutters and downspouts and cause water to build up near your foundation. Install a gutter cover to stop leaves from building-up.

Caulk and cover lower-level windows. Check if your sump pump is working and get a backup, in case it fails. Install a backwater valve to block sewage from getting into your basement from the main sanitary sewer.

## STOP WATER FROM ENTERING YOUR HOME

## GET PREPARED

Stock up on emergency supplies that you can grab and take with you easily. Think of what steps you would take in an emergency. Find your valuables and raise or move them upstairs. Move your hazardous materials, like paint and other chemicals, off the ground. Talk to your family, friends and neighbours about a plan. Follow the advice of emergency officials.

