

Household and Renter Flood Checklist

Check off each step to get your household ready for winter storms, high tides, and flooding in San Mateo County.

Before Winter: Start With the County's Four Steps

- ☐ **Make a plan.** Agree on where your household will meet, choose an out-of-area contact, and know two ways out of your neighborhood. Look up your evacuation zone at protect.genasys.com. Planning help: ready.gov/plan
- ☐ **Build a kit.** Gather water, food, medications, chargers, a flashlight, and copies of important documents to last 3 days. Checklist: ready.gov/kit
- ☐ **Find your sandbag site** before the first storm. See the [County sandbag list](#), and call ahead; some sites serve residents only.
- ☐ **Sign up for SMC Alert** at smcalert.info, or update your address and phone if you've moved. Nixle is separate, so sign up for SMC Alert too.

Before Winter: Your Home and Belongings

- ☐ Find out whether your home or regular routes have flooded before. Look up your address at msc.fema.gov.
- ☐ Clear leaves from gutters, downspouts, and the storm drain nearest your home. Use a rake, and never lift a grate.
- ☐ Point downspouts away from your foundation.
- ☐ Move important documents and valuables above the level water could reach.
- ☐ Photograph your home and belongings so you can document them for insurance.
- ☐ Check your flood coverage. Most home and renters policies don't cover flooding, and new flood policies usually take 30 days to start: floodsmart.gov
- ☐ Plan for pets, medications, mobility needs, and power outages.
- ☐ Check on a neighbor who may need help getting ready.

If You Rent

- ☐ Ask your property owner or manager whether the building has flooded before and what they plan to do in a storm.
- ☐ Know how to report drainage or building problems, and save the number in your phone.
- ☐ Consider renters insurance, and check what it covers. Most renters policies don't cover flood damage.
- ☐ Keep essential documents, medications, and electronics where you can grab them quickly.

Before and During a Storm

- ☐ Watch National Weather Service forecasts at weather.gov/mtr and local alerts.
- ☐ Charge phones and power banks.
- ☐ Move vehicles out of low-lying areas when officials advise.
- ☐ Stay away from flooded roads, trails, underpasses, and shorelines.
- ☐ Report flooding or a clogged storm drain to your city's public works department.
- ☐ Follow evacuation and safety instructions from emergency officials.
- ☐ After the storm, return home only when officials say it's safe.

Stay out of flood water. Never drive, bike, or walk into flood water. 6 inches of moving water can knock you off your feet, and 12 inches can carry away most cars. In an emergency, call 911.

My city public works number: _____ My sandbag site: _____
 Out-of-area contact: _____ My evacuation zone: _____