

UNDERSTANDING LOCAL FLOOD MESSAGES



OTHER RESOURCES

- **Government of Canada** - www.Getprepared.gc.ca
- **Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority** - www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca
- **Canadian Red Cross** - www.redcross.ca
- **Emergency Management Ontario** - www.ontario.ca/page/floods
- **Insurance Bureau of Canada** - www.IBC.ca

FLOODS DON'T DISCRIMINATE, BE PREPARED!



Municipality of
Dutton Dunwich

FLOOD WARNING: flooding is imminent or already occurring.

FLOOD WATCH: there is potential for flooding.

WATERSHED CONDITIONS STATEMENT: flood outlook (an early notice of the potential for flooding based on heavy rain, snow melt etc.) and water safety information.

SHORELINE CONDITIONS STATEMENT: flood outlook (an early notice of the potential for flooding on the Great Lakes based on weather and lake conditions) and water safety information.



CONTACT US

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TYPES OF FLOODS

OVERLAND FLOODING: happens when rivers or lakes overflow their banks due to heavy rainfall or melting snow and ice

RAIN-RELATED FLOODING: happens when there is heavy or ongoing rain and the ground can't drain properly

FLASH FLOODING: happen suddenly due to hurricane and other violent storms

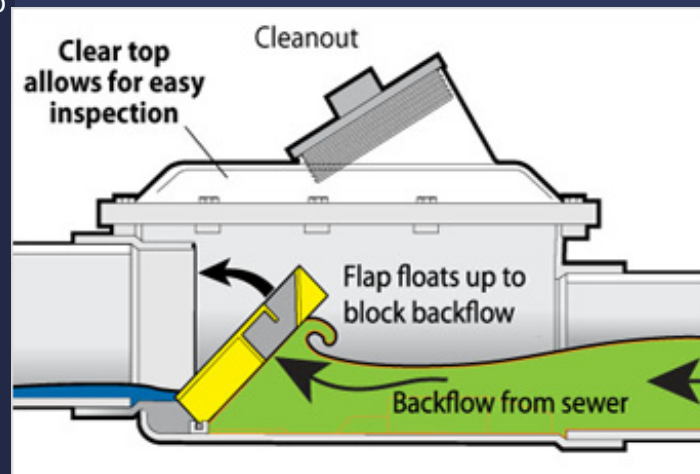


BEFORE THE FLOOD

- Monitor the weather forecast for precipitation
- Contact local authorities to find out if your home is located in flood prone area
- Clear gutters, drains and downpipes of debris
- Remove debris from nearest storm drain, ditch or culvert
- Install drainage for downspouts a sufficient distance from your residence to ensure water moves away from the building (do not connect these to the sanitary system)
- Do not store valuables or emergency equipment in your basement or raise them off the floor
- Consider installing a sump pump (have a backup sump pump with battery) and make sure to test and clean these twice per year
- Take special precautions to safeguard electrical, natural gas or propane heating
- Prepare a 72-hr kit in the event you are asked to evacuate
- Install flood shields/barriers that extend above ground level for basement windows and doors
- Install a backflow valve in the sewer pipe at the foot of your basement wall or in the yard. The device is designed to close when the sanitary sewer begins to surcharge
- Routine maintenance of the backflow valve is a must, debris caught in the valve may prevent proper closure of the valve
- Ensure the grading around your home is sloped away from the house
- Avoid planting trees and shrubs over sewer pipes as roots can damage the pipes

DURING THE FLOOD

- Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters
- Stay off bridges over fast-moving water
- Obey traffic barricades and road closure signs
- Evacuate if told to do so by local emergency authorities
- Reduce or cease home water usage during heavy rainfalls, when the backflow valve is in the closed position, wastewater in the home will have nowhere to go but back through the floor drain (this includes showers, baths, laundry, dishwasher, toilets)
- Disconnect electrical appliances - do not touch electrical equipment if wet or standing in water



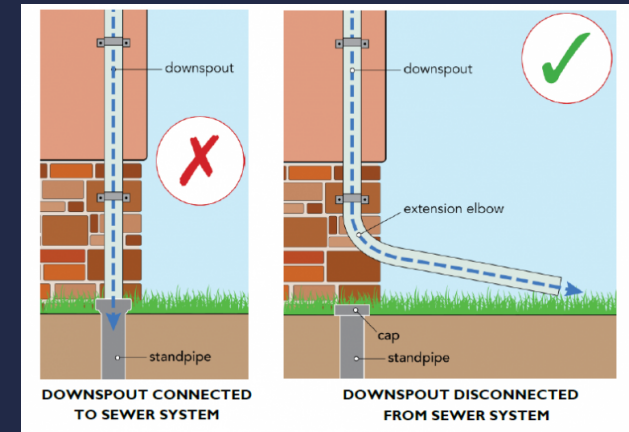
AFTER THE FLOOD

- Contact your home insurance provider for instruction and to register any damages to your home
- Appliances that may have been flooded pose a risk of shock or fire when turned on. Do not use any appliances, heating, pressure, or sewage system until electrical components have been thoroughly cleaned, dried, and inspected
- If your house has been flooded and you have a well, don't drink the water. Have it tested first.
- Make sure every flood contaminated room has been thoroughly cleaned, disinfected and is dry

INFLOW OR INFILTRATION?

INFLOW: is rainwater that enters the sanitary system through direct sources such as downspouts, foundation drains, cross-connections with storm drains and other means

INFILTRATION: is groundwater that enters the sanitary sewer through cracks or leaky joints in sewer pipes and manholes.



SEWER V. STORMWATER

SANITARY (SEWER) SYSTEM: collects wastewater and sewage from houses or commercial facilities and directs it to the Wastewater Treatment Plant

STORMWATER SYSTEM: collects rain and surface water and directs it to municipal drainage or to a stormwater management pond

