

winter floods are
SNOW laughing
matter.



You can't be absolutely certain that your home will not flood.

However, there are many precautionary measures you can take to avoid or minimize flooding damages. Help prevent a 'winter of discontent.'

DO YOUR PART

Help prevent flooding in your neighbourhood

- Keep catch basins clear and uncover fire hydrants near your home.
- When clearing your driveway, consider the direction of travel of the snowplow. If you move snow toward the side of your property that the plow finishes crossing your driveway, less snow will accumulate across the driveway, when the plow passes.
- Leaves and yard waste that are left to pile up in the roadway, ditches or sidewalks can clog catch basins and prevent the free flow of water. Check your waste calendar for Leaf and Yard waste collection dates in your neighbourhood.
- Maintain the swale on your property. A swale is a shallow trough-like depression that carries water during rainstorms or snow melts, usually located on the property line between properties.
- Keep your eavestroughs clean. When your eavestroughs are blocked, the rain will pour over the edges landing on the ground next to your home. If you have cracks in the cement wall of your basement or problems with your weeping tile, this water could enter your home.

YEAR-ROUND TIPS

- Do not store items on the floor in your basement. Install shelves several feet off the floor to store items on.
- Do not sit appliances, furnaces and water heaters directly on the floor in your basement. If possible they should be set on a stable platform of appropriate material such as cement blocks.
- Install electrical outlets and electrical panels higher than a projected flood level.
- Do not run drywall all the way to the floor in a finished basement – use material such as tile or linoleum running up the wall about one foot high to guard against water damage.
- Consider the installation of protective plumbing devices such as back-flow valves or sump pumps. Contact the City's Building Department for permitted methods in your area.
- Consider disconnecting roof leaders from the sewer system. Do this only if it is determined that neighbouring properties will not be adversely affected. Contact the City's Building Department before proceeding.



Find out more at hamilton.ca/floodaware or call 905 546-CITY