

before you get in too **DEEP**



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. This summer spend time **AT** the lake, not **IN** it.

DO YOUR PART

Help prevent flooding in your neighbourhood

- When landscaping your property, be sure that you don't change the lot grading. Water should flow away from your home, not towards it.
- Minimize the amount of hard surface such as cement, driveways and walkways on your property. Rainfall should be absorbed into the ground. When this is prohibited by hard surfaces, water will flow in the most natural direction.
- Remember, gardens, plant material and trees absorb water.
- Rain barrels help to direct water away from your home and the sewer system. The downspout from your eavestrough is directed into the rain barrel. You can run a hose from the rain barrel to water your garden.
- Maintain the swale on your property. The swale is usually located on the property line between properties. A swale is a shallow trough-like depression that carries water during rainstorms or snow melts.
- Consider installing window well covers to help keep window wells free from debris which can clog drains and cause basement flooding.

YEAR-ROUND TIPS

- Do not store items on the floor in your basement. Install shelves several feet off the floor to store.
- 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.
- 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