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FLOODING & FLOOD RISKS

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**RESOURCES:
Flood Facts**



- In the past 5 years, all 50 states have experienced floods or flash floods.
- Everyone lives in a flood zone. (For more information, [visit our Flood Zones FAQs.](#))
- Most homeowners insurance does not cover flood damage.
- If you live in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) or high-risk area and have a Federally backed mortgage, your mortgage lender requires you to have flood insurance. (To find your flood risk, fill out the Flood Risk Profile.)
- Just a few inches of water from a flood can cause tens of thousands of dollars in damage.
- Flash floods often bring walls of water 10 to 20 feet high.
- A car can easily be carried away by just two feet of floodwater.
- Hurricanes, winter storms and snowmelt are common (but often overlooked) causes of flooding.
- New land development can increase flood risk, especially if the construction changes natural runoff paths.
- Federal disaster assistance is usually a loan that must be paid back with interest. For a \$50,000 loan at 4% interest, your monthly payment would be around \$240 a month (\$2,880 a year) for 30 years. Compare that to a \$100,000 flood insurance premium, which is about \$400 a year (\$33 a month).
- Homes and businesses in moderate- to low-risk areas may qualify for the low-cost Preferred Risk Policy.
- You are eligible to purchase flood insurance as long as your community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. [Check the Community Status Book](#) to see if your community is already an NFIP partner.
- In most cases, it takes 30 days after purchase for a policy to take effect, so it's important to buy insurance before the storm approaches and the floodwaters start to rise.
- In a high-risk area, your home is more likely to be damaged by flood than by fire.
- Even though flood insurance isn't federally required, anyone can be financially vulnerable to floods. In fact, people outside of mapped high-risk flood areas file nearly 25% of all National Flood Insurance Program flood insurance claims and receive one-third of Federal Disaster Assistance for flooding.
- From 2003 to 2012, total flood insurance claims averaged nearly \$4 billion per year.
- When your community participates in the Community Rating System (CRS), you can qualify for an insurance premium discount of up to 45% if you live in a high-risk area and up to 10% in moderate- to low-risk areas.
- Since 1978, the NFIP has paid more than \$48.1 billion for flood insurance claims and related costs (as of 7/8/13).
- More than 5.5 million people currently hold flood insurance policies in more than 21,800 communities across the U.S.
- The two most common reimbursement methods for flood claims are: Replacement Cost Value (RCV) and Actual Cash Value (ACV). The RCV is the cost to replace damaged property. It is reimbursable to owners of single-family, primary residences insured to at least 80% of the building's replacement cost.

For more policy and claim statistics, [visit the National Flood Insurance Program.](#)

One-Step Flood Risk Profile

HOW CAN I GET COVERED?

- Rate your risk
- Estimate your premiums
- Find an agent

Address:

City:

State: State/Territory

Zip code:

Residential? Yes No

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Floods are the #1 natural disaster in the United States.

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FEMA



500 C Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20472

Disaster Assistance: (800) 621-FEMA, TTY (800) 462-7585

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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