

Flooding information

Canal and river boat safety

Be flood ready

Floods can happen fast. If you live on a boat, here's how to stay safe before, during and after a flood.

Know your flood risk

- Check your flood risk: gov.uk/flood-risk
- Sign up for free flood warnings: gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings
- Talk to other boat residents or staff at your marina or boatyard about flood plans.
- Learn how your area reacts to rising water (low bridges, fast currents, overflowing banks).

Getting ready before a flood

Make a boat safety plan

- Find safe places to moor your boat away from flood zones.
- Plan how to leave your boat safely and where you'll go if it's not safe to stay.
- Pack a grab bag with:
 - personal documents
 - Phone and charger
 - Medicines
 - Warm clothes
 - Food and water

Keep your insurance and papers safe

- Put copies of your boat insurance, licence and ID in a waterproof pouch.
- Save copies digitally if you can.

Getting ready before a flood

Secure your boat

- Check ropes, fenders, anchors, bilge pump and fuel.
- Use long spring lines so your boat can move with rising water.
- Tie down or remove loose items from the deck.
- Keep life jackets nearby and check they're in good condition.
- Turn off gas, fuel and shore power if flooding is expected.
- Never use generators or fuel heaters inside your boat.

Keep people and pets safe

- Keep children and pets off pontoons and towpaths during flood alerts.
- Ask friends or family who live ashore if they can help you evacuate if needed.

During a flood

- Do not move your boat during a flood.
- Stay away from locks, weirs, sluices and fast-moving water.
- Never walk through floodwater to get to or from your boat.
- Follow advice from the Canal and River Trust and emergency services.
- If flooding is expected, leave early - don't wait until it gets worse.

After a flood

- Check pontoons, ropes and paths for damage before going back to your boat.
- Air out your boat and check for damp, mould or fuel spills.
- Clean surfaces that touched floodwater with disinfectant.
- Throw away food or water that may be unsafe.

Useful contacts

- Contact your GP if you feel unwell – floodwater can carry germs.
- Floodline (Environment Agency): 0345 988 1188
- Sign up for flood warnings:
gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings
- Canal and River Trust (24/7 emergencies):
0800 479 9947
- Tewkesbury Borough Council: 01684 295010
- Tewkesbury Borough Council (out of hours):
01684 293445
- Emergency: 999