

# Flood Action Campaign 2016

Template article - tenants

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## Do you rent your home? Do you know if it's at flood risk?

The Environment Agency is running a flood campaign at the start of November. We want you to act now, and be prepared for flooding.

1 in 6 properties in England are at flood risk – that's almost 5 million people. If you rent your home, you probably haven't thought about it being at flood risk. It's estimated that most people aged 20-39 will be in rented accommodation by 2025<sup>i</sup>; so it's important to know as much as you can about where you're living.

During the winter of 2015/2016 almost 20,000 homes and businesses flooded and the impacts of that were devastating. Statistics show that the average cost for a domestic flood is £50,000, with insurers spending nearly £27.5 million on alternative accommodation for affected families while their properties are repaired<sup>ii</sup>

Caroline Douglass, Incident Management and Resilience Director at the Environment Agency said:

"Flooding can cause serious disruption to people's lives. We can't prevent it, but we can help people to be more flood resilient – those who are aware of the risk and have done something about it are able to reduce damage to their possessions considerably."

December 2015 was the wettest month in England since records began in 1910: with an ever-changing climate, the number of homes and businesses that could flood is only going to increase. The worrying fact is that only half of the people who are at risk, actually know about it.

As a tenant, the impacts on you could be devastating. Sarah Soames was living in a rented house in Birmingham when she was affected by flooding in 2005:

"We went through two and a half months of hell – the landlord wouldn't release us from our contract and we had to stay upstairs in a house without floorboards or a clean kitchen. The situation was totally out of my control and now I always check the flood maps before I rent a property."

Have you ever checked to see if you are at risk from flooding? Would you know what to do in a flood? Does your landlord have insurance to cover building repairs? Is anything in your contract? What could you do now to save you time, money and worry if it happened tomorrow?

Start by taking three simple steps to help protect you, your family and home from the devastating effects flooding:

- Use the [Environment Agency's maps](#) to find out if you are at risk from flooding
- Check if [free flood warnings](#) are available for your area and register online
- Do something to be prepared. Start with a quick [personal flood plan](#)

Within a few minutes you'll be more prepared for flooding. Once you have the knowledge, you can then find out more about other measures you can take in case of a flooding emergency.

We can't prevent flooding, but being prepared will help save you time, money and distress if a flood happens to you.

For more information please visit [GOV.UK/floodsdestroy](https://www.gov.uk/floodsdestroy)

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<sup>i</sup> Uk Housing Market Outlook: PwC, July 2015

<sup>ii</sup> Statistics from Associated Board of Insurers (ABI) January 2016