

## Step 1: Complete simple maintenance and prepare in advance

### Do it yourself



1  
Make sure your household Flood Plan and emergency contacts are up to date and sign up for free Met Éireann Weather Warnings.

2  
Have plastic boxes with lids available. Move important, valuable and sentimental items upstairs.

3  
Purchase trestle tables and be prepared to raise furniture after receiving a flood warning.

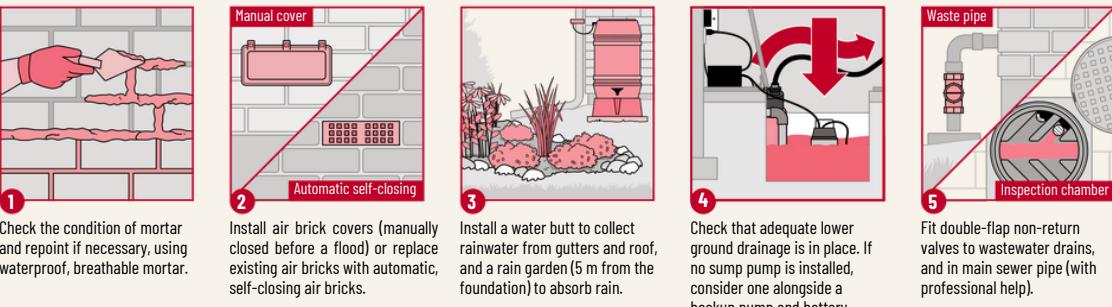
4  
If you have a sump pump, test that it is working properly. Annual maintenance is recommended.

5  
If non-return valves, drains and gullies are accessible, periodically inspect and clean them.

Note: Check for any signs of damaged or overflowing drains. If this has occurred, was it due to a blockage or were the drains inadequately sized? Next time the flood could be more serious. Remember that even if all the premises drainage is clean, problems may arise if the public drainage systems external to the site are not flowing freely or are undersized.

## Step 2: Add basic flood protection measures

### Do-it-yourself or work with a contractor



1  
Check the condition of mortar and repoint if necessary, using waterproof, breathable mortar.

2  
Install air brick covers (manually closed before a flood) or replace existing air bricks with automatic, self-closing air bricks.

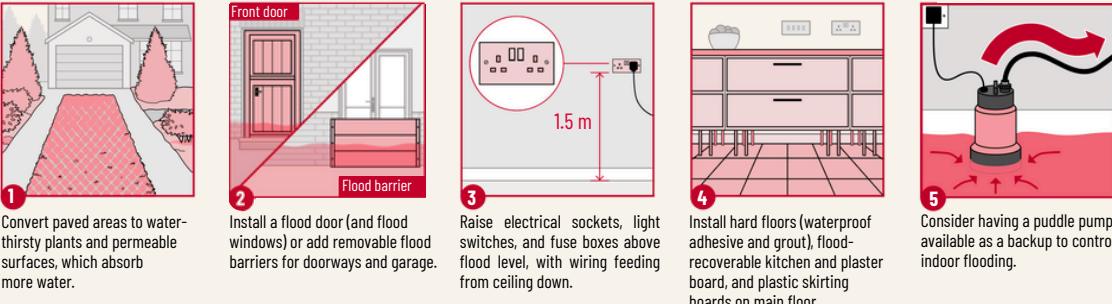
3  
Install a water butt to collect rainwater from gutters and roof, and a rain garden (5 m from the foundation) to absorb rain.

4  
Check that adequate lower ground drainage is in place. If no sump pump is installed, consider one alongside a backup pump and battery.

5  
Fit double-flap non-return valves to wastewater drains, and in main sewer pipe (with professional help).

## Step 3: Make your home more resilient to floods

### Work with a contractor



1  
Convert paved areas to water-thirsty plants and permeable surfaces, which absorb more water.

2  
Install a flood door (and flood windows) or add removable flood barriers for doorways and garage.

3  
Raise electrical sockets, light switches, and fuse boxes above flood level, with wiring feeding from ceiling down.

4  
Install hard floors (waterproof adhesive and grout), flood-recoverable kitchen and plaster board, and plastic skirting boards on main floor.

5  
Consider having a puddle pump available as a backup to control indoor flooding.