

Flood-ready neighbourhood toolkit

Here's your Flood-Ready Neighbourhood Toolkit—a simple, practical guide to help you take action before floods happen in your local area.

A flood-resilient community starts with you! By staying informed, working together, and making small changes, you can protect your home, your family, and your neighbourhood.



Connect with local authorities

Flood risks aren't just about heavy rain—they're about knowing how water moves through your area. Stay in the loop with your local council, Melbourne Water, and VICSES (Victoria State Emergency Service). They provide real-time updates, workshops, and resources to help you prepare.

What you can do:

- Check flood risk maps for your property.
- Sign up for local flood alerts.
- Attend council meetings or VICSES workshops to learn more about flood prevention.

Helpful resources:

- [Melbourne Water – Flooding information and advice](#)
- [VICSES – Local flood guides](#)



Start a flood action group

You don't have to prepare alone! A Flood Action Group in your neighbourhood can help coordinate emergency plans and ensure everyone knows what to do before, during, and after a flood.

How to get started:

- Gather neighbours and potential flood risks.
- Assign roles: Who will share updates? Who will check in on elderly residents? Who has first aid training?
- Plan evacuation routes and meeting points in case of severe flooding.

Helpful resources:

- [Melbourne Water – Prepare for flooding](#)
- [VICSES – Plan and stay safe](#)



Organise community cleanup events

Flooding is made worse when drains, gutters, and waterways are clogged. Regular community clean-ups can help prevent flooding before it starts.

How you can help:

- Clear leaves and debris from street drains.
- Organise a cleanup day with neighbours, businesses and schools.
- Report blocked stormwater drains to your local council.

Helpful resources:

- [City of Melbourne – Help make litter extinct](#)
- [Clean Up Australia – Get involved as a community member](#)



Promote flood awareness in your community

Not everyone knows what to do in a flood emergency. The more people who are prepared, the safer your community will be.

Ways to get involved:

- Organise local flood awareness sessions.
- Share multilingual flood safety guides with neighbours.
- Create a local emergency WhatsApp or Facebook group for real-time updates.

Helpful resources:

- [VicEmergency App](#)
- [VICSES – Plan for emergencies at work](#)
- [Australian Red Cross – Preparing for emergencies](#)



Encourage green infrastructure

Sustainable infrastructure can help reduce the impact of floods while making your community more eco-friendly. Green solutions, like rain gardens and permeable

pavements, absorb excess water and help manage stormwater.

How you can take action:

- Speak to your council about installing green infrastructure in public areas.
- Add a rain garden, green roof, or permeable paving to your home.
- Advocate for more urban wetlands to naturally manage stormwater.

Helpful resources:

- [Melbourne Water – Storm water](#) <https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au/respond/>
- [City of Melbourne – Water sensitive urban design](#)



Do you want to learn more?

Take a look at our other learning resources for

you:



New flood modelling is underway



How to assess your personal flood information

Understanding key flood terminology