

floodproof

Flood Prevention Program

Flood Prevention Tips for Homeowners

Extreme weather is a fact of life in Edmonton. Flood Proof is a City of Edmonton strategy to help you keep your home dry. Here are some simple, cost effective tips to help you better flood proof your home.

Check Eavestroughs & Downspouts

- ✓ Check and maintain your eavestroughs and rain gutters annually.
- ✓ Ensure eavestroughs are properly sloped to allow for optimum water movement. Regularly remove debris like leaves and twigs that can block water flow.
- ✓ Ensure elbows and downspouts are in good working order and are properly connected.
- ✓ Downspout extension should be a minimum of 6 feet (1.8 metres) away from the basement and should drain water off your property – toward the street or back lane. Ensure your downspout doesn't extend to your neighbour's property.
- ✓ Splash pads should be used to direct water that's discharged from your downspout.

Check Lot Grading

- ✓ Check and maintain your lot grading annually.
- ✓ Proper lot grading ensures surface water flows away from your home. A positive grade of 4-6 inches and a minimum of 5 feet way from the home's foundation are recommended.
- ✓ If you're unable to grade, caulking or waterproofing cracks and spaces along concrete surfaces next to your foundation with silicone can help keep water from getting into your basement. Concrete surfaces to check for water seepage are typically your driveway, sidewalk and patio. This should be done every 3-5 years.
- ✓ Maintain positive grading under steps and decks. This can be achieved by backfilling these areas with dirt and compressing the dirt by tamping with a pole or a shovel.
- ✓ Use window wells around basement windows to bring up your lot grading. An added benefit is wells prevent dirt from rotting your window sills.

Things to Do Inside Your Home

- ✓ Fill and seal any visible indoor foundation cracks with silicone to prevent water from entering your basement.
- ✓ Refrain from excessive water use when it's raining. Taking a long shower, washing clothes and running your dishwasher can all add to the demands of the sewer system.
- ✓ Consider purchasing a backwater valve. It can be the last line of defence in protecting your home from sewer back up.
- ✓ If your home has a backwater valve, check at least once a year to see that it's working properly. This can be done by seeing if the flaps move freely and it is free of debris.
- ✓ If your home has a sump pump, check it annually. You can test a sump pump by taking off the lid and pouring water into the pump well to activate the pump.
- ✓ Keep in mind that devices like backwater valves and sump pumps need periodic cleaning and maintenance. Be sure to consult a plumber for servicing.

Book Your Flood Prevention Check-up

Our new flood prevention check-up service brings a drainage specialist right to your home for a free interior and exterior drainage assessment.

Call **944-7777** for more information or to schedule your complimentary appointment.

