

Understanding your flood risk and flood data

Flooding varies by location, so it is important to understand the types of flood risks that may impact your property.

The Queensland Government and local councils provide flood risk information, including planning and development requirements.

Before undertaking resilience works, check with your local council for available flood information.

What you need to know about flood risk

There are a few things you should be aware of when it comes to flood water and your property. These include:

- » types of flooding that may affect your property
- » potential flood levels and flood depths to help you decide how high to build resilience to
- » the likelihood that your property could flood and what areas of your property are at risk
- » relevant planning and building requirements.

It is good to understand the ground and floor levels of your property. Talk to your builder or seek advice from an engineer or architect to help inform your decision making.

Understanding your flood risk also helps you prepare and respond to severe weather.

We can't stop floods, but we can reduce their impact

Queensland is known for its unpredictable weather. Flooding is one of the most common and dangerous disasters Queenslanders face.

We can't stop floods from occurring, but we can take steps to reduce their impact.

Flood-resilient design is one of the many ways you can build your resilience to floods. Resilient design involves adapting the design, construction and materials incorporated into buildings to minimise damage caused by floodwaters. Incorporating resilient building design can significantly reduce the effort, cost and time of recovering from a flood.

Resilient materials are good for the environment

After every flood, many household materials – such as plasterboards, carpets and hollow doors – are dumped into landfill, contributing to the 9.81 million tonnes of waste generated in Queensland.

A flood-resilient home can:

- » minimise the chance of flood damage to the home
- » minimise the costs and inconvenience of returning home after flood events
- » reduce the likelihood of paying for repetitive repairs following flood events
- » prepare homes for changing flood conditions in the future, particularly from climate change.

When to use resilient design

You may want to consider resilient design while planning repairs on your home following a flood. However, you don't need to wait until the next flood to improve the resilience of your home.

If you're planning a new build or renovations to your home, small changes can make a big difference so consider using resilient materials and strategies.

The inside of this booklet provides five simple ways to improve your home's resilience.

Does it cost more to build back with resilience?

Resilient materials generally have minimal extra costs, and labour costs are similar to building with non-resilient materials.

The long-term savings outweigh the initial costs, as you won't be required to replace resilient materials after a flood. For example, fibre cement sheets cost more than plasterboard, however, you won't need to replace fibre cement sheets after a flood.

Builders should refer to material and product specifications to ensure they are water resistant and fit for purpose, as quality and effectiveness may vary.

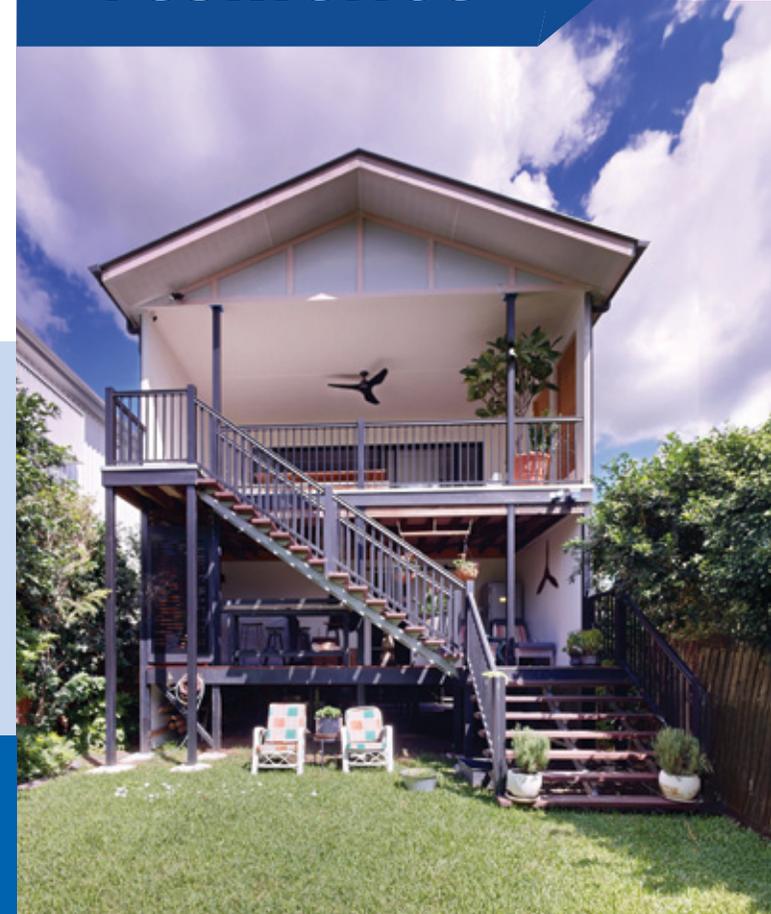
Further information

To find out how you can prepare your home for a flood, visit getready.qld.gov.au

For flood information from your local council, visit getready.qld.gov.au/find-your-local-council

To learn more about resilient building materials, talk to your builder or architect.

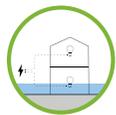
Improve your home's flood resilience



Flood-resilient building materials

Resilience measures are not new: materials have been around for many years and there is a growing demand among homeowners for sustainable, resilient homes.

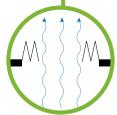
Flood-resilient design involves adapting the design, construction and materials incorporated into buildings to minimise damage caused by floodwaters. The following example shows how a home can be retrofitted to include resilient building materials.



Install separate circuits on the lower and upper levels



Raise storage shelves



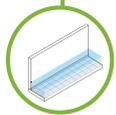
Reconfigure doors to maximise openings



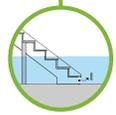
Install flush door sills to ensure easy cleaning after a flood event



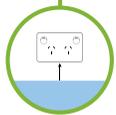
Use flood-resilient wall framing to minimise the chance of mould or damage



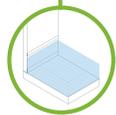
Replace non-resilient flooring and skirting with flood-resilient flooring and skirting



Make the bottom riser of stairs removable for easy cleaning and drying out



Raise data and electrical points



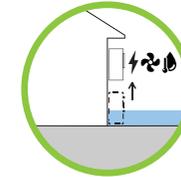
Replace wall linings with flood-resilient wall linings



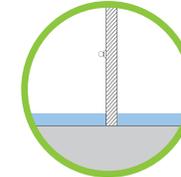
Replace loose-fill insulation with rigid cell insulation in cavity walls

5 ways to improve a home's

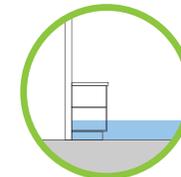
flood resilience



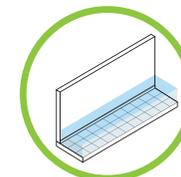
Raise the electrical switchboard, the hot water unit and air conditioning condenser units



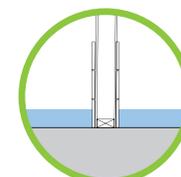
Replace hollow core doors with solid core doors



Replace non-water-resistant cabinetry with water-resistant cabinetry



Replace non-water-resistant flooring with water-resistant flooring



Replace non-water-resistant wall linings with flood-resilient materials



Download the Design Guidance for Flood Resilient Homes for innovative and practical tips for adapting your home to be more flood resilient.