

To-do list before a rainstorm



When an approaching rainstorm is likely to hit your area within the next five hours, you should make preparations.

This is how to prepare:

- Clean roof gutters, grates and drains.
- Check that pipes and connections are generally in order and leak-proof.
- Check that flood defences, ditches, fascine drains (underground chambers), drainage wells and drains are intact and in working order.
- Ensure that windows and doors are closed and weather strips shut tightly. Pay special attention to cellar and roof windows and other openings that may be exposed to rain.
- Clear and remove loose objects around the house and cover items that are not rainproof.
- If you have installed high-water valves, you should ensure that they are functioning correctly.
- Empty rainwater butts (where this will not cause problems).
- Stay at home.
- Remove items such as electrical equipment, furniture, carpets and other possessions within the water's reach, e.g. from cellar floors and floors in low-lying buildings.
- Turn off electrical equipment and gas, etc. which may come into contact with water.
- Follow the weather situation, for example, by telephone, television and radio.
- Be ready to help your neighbour.

If you have invested in temporary solutions, you should ensure that they are set up and functioning correctly. These may include:

- Barriers for outer doors consisting of rust-free corner posts and upright aluminium sheets that can be mounted to form a waterproof barrier.
- Barriers for outer doors consisting of strong steel that can be fastened to the doorway at the sides and bottom. A neoprene sheet stretched across the doorway makes the steel sheet watertight.
- Inflatable barrages as flood defence.
- Watertight steel hatches to cover windows or door apertures.
- Sand bags. Plastic can be laid between the building and the bags.
- Pumps to pump water away. Ensure that these are connected to installations unaffected by flood water.