THREE STEPS TO COST-EFFECTIVE HOME FLOOD PROTECTION

Step 1: Maintain what you’ve got at least twice per year

Do-it-yourself, $0

1. Remove debris from nearest storm drain or ditch and culvert
2. Clean out eaves troughs
3. Check for leaks in plumbing, fixtures and appliances
4. Test your sump pump
5. Clean out your backwater valve

Step 2: Complete simple upgrades

Do-it-yourself, for under $250

1. Install window well covers (where fire escape requirements permit)
2. Extend downspouts and sump discharge pipes at least 2 m from foundation
3. Store valuables and hazardous materials in watertight containers and secure fuel tanks
4. Remove obstructions to floor drain
5. Install and maintain flood alarm

Step 3: Complete more complex upgrades

Work with a contractor, for over $250

1. Install window wells that sit 10-15 cm above ground and upgrade to water resistant windows
2. Disconnect downspouts, cap foundation drains and extend downspouts to direct water at least 2 m from foundation
3. Correct grading to direct water at least 2 m away from foundation
4. Install backwater valve
5. Install backup sump pump and battery