

Belmont Common, 2022



# Local Flood Guide

*Geelong*

Understand, prepare, and respond effectively to your flood risk.



FLOOD STORM  
EMERGENCY **132 500**



If life threatening  
call triple zero 000

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Victoria State Emergency Service acknowledges Aboriginal Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria and pays respect to their cultures and Elders past and present.

**Disclaimer:** Victoria State Emergency Service assumes no responsibility or liability for any errors or omissions for any of the content in this document.

**Content Reviewed:** June 2025



For more information visit: [ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe](https://ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe)

## Local flood information

 <p>There have been eleven significant flood events in Geelong between 1980 and 2024.</p>	 <p>The largest flood on record was in 1995 when the floodwater reached 5.94 metres at the Barwon River at Geelong</p>	 <p>Significant flooding can occur when more than 75 millimetres of rain falls over 1 to 3 days on already saturated ground, or when over 150 millimetres falls on dry ground within the same period.</p>
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## Why does Geelong flood?

Geelong is at risk of both **riverine flooding** and **flash flooding** which can happen separately, or at the same time. Both are usually caused by heavy rainfall.

### Riverine flooding

- This happens when Moorabool River and/or the Barwon River rises and overflows their banks, and spills water onto land.
- The water level of the Barwon River can also be impacted by the heights and flow from the Moorabool and Leigh Rivers, which join the Barwon River.



### Flash flooding

- This kind of flooding can happen quickly in all areas of Geelong, when drainage is quickly overwhelmed by the large amount of water but will drain soon after.
- You may not receive an official warning. Although these floods only last for a short time, they can cause severe damage.

## How do floods impact communities?

Even if your home or workplace stays dry, floods can impact you in many ways.



Buildings flooded



Road closures



Drinking water supply and quality affected



Power outages



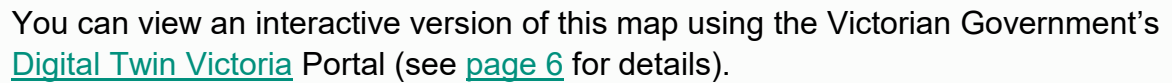
Mobile and internet network outage



Sewage overflows inside building



- This map shows the area likely to flood in a significant event that would measure 6 metres high at the [Barwon River at Geelong gauge](#) at the McIntyre Bridge.
- This floodwater height is 1.70 metres above the major flood level, see [page 5](#) for details.



## What might happen in a flood in your area?

Although no two floods are the same and the environment is constantly changing, the below table provides an idea of what to expect at different flood heights.

- **Before a flood:** Use the floodwater heights in the table to help you decide when you will need to act to protect yourself and your property in a flood event.
- **During a flood:** When a warning is issued by [VicEmergency](#), use the predicted floodwater height and warning information to understand what the potential impacts may be for you and your community.

Floodwater height (metres)*	Potential impacts and previous flood events^
6.20m	Top of Moorabool Street bridge piers touched by floodwater.
<b>6.00m</b>	<b>Flood height shown on map, see <a href="#">page 4</a>.</b> Flood depths significantly increase in Geelong, causing extensive damage to buildings and roads.
<b>5.94m</b>	<b>November 1995 flood event</b> The largest flood on record in Geelong.
<b>5.47m</b>	<b>June 1952 flood event</b>
5.39m	Bottom of Breakwater Rail Bridge floods. 42 buildings are flooded above floor level.
<b>4.50m</b>	<b>November 1978 flood event</b> 40 buildings are flooded above floor. Flooding impacts the Riverglens Holiday & City Southside Caravan Parks.
4.40m	Water spills over the top of the levee bank of the Barwon Valley Caravan Park.
<b>4.30m</b>	<b>Major flood level</b> Deep flooding cuts access to Barwon Heads Rd & Barwon Tce.
4.03m	22 buildings are flooded above floor.
<b>3.84m</b>	<b>October 2022 flood event</b>
<b>3.80m</b>	<b>October 1983 flood event</b>
<b>3.68m</b>	<b>January 2011 flood event</b>
3.52m	Flooding starts to cut access to a number of minor and major roads and sporting assets. 19 buildings are flooded above floor.
3.28m	Floor level of Belmont Park Pavilion flooded.
<b>3.10m</b>	<b>Moderate flood level</b> Barwon Valley Golf Course inundated.
3.00m	Gravel Pits Road and Steel Street closed.
2.85m	Water enters first boatsheds at Barwon Terrace.
<b>2.58m</b>	<b>September 2010 flood event</b> Floodwater begins to impact low lying parkland along the Barwon River including the Barwon Valley Golf Club & the Geelong Water Ski Club.
<b>2.30m</b>	<b>Minor flood level</b> The Barrabool Road flood gates are closed.
2.00m	Breakwater causeway begins to flood.

\*The height measurement is at the [Barwon River at Geelong gauge](#) located at the McIntyre Bridge.

^This table includes information from previous flood events and flood studies, which are scientific models used to predict impacts at different flood heights and flows.



## What might happen in a flood in your area? (continued)

The below areas within Geelong have been impacted by different types of flooding:

Barwon River flooding and flash flooding	Barwon River flooding	Flash flooding	
■ Newtown	■ Fyansford	■ Bell Park	■ Highton
■ South Geelong	■ Highton	■ Geelong CBD	■ Newcomb
■ Belmont	■ Breakwater	■ Hamlyn Heights	■ North Geelong

Roads likely to be impacted by flash flooding			
■ Anakie Rd/Ballarat Rd intersection	■ Church Street	■ Gertrude Street	■ Pakington Street
■ Ballarat Road	■ Corio Street	■ Gheringhap Street	■ Ryrie Street
■ Barwon Terrace at Wood Street	■ Cunningham Street	■ Gordon Avenue underpass	■ Thompson Road
■ Brougham Street underpass	■ Eastern Beach Road	■ Moorabool Street	■ Vines Road

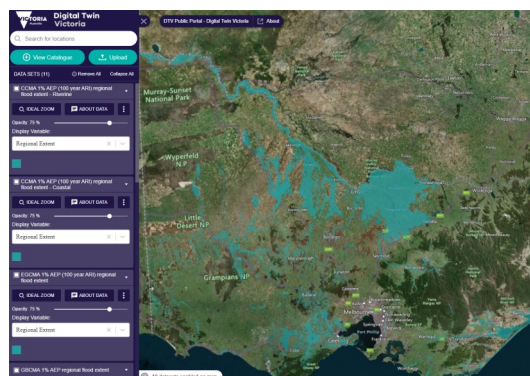
### Flood Gates

The City of Greater Geelong have installed flood gates and flood warning signs in a number of roads where flooding can cut road access, including **Barrabool Rd, Highton** and **Gundog Lane, Breakwater**.



Never drive past closed flood gates or road barriers.

## View the interactive flood map on Digital Twin Victoria



The [Digital Twin Victoria Portal](https://digitaltwin.vic.gov.au) brings together 2D, 3D and live data in a single online place for everyone to use. The Portal hosts some flood mapping data.

- Use the portal to zoom in on where you live, work and travel to see if these locations are likely to be affected in a large flood event.

Go to [digitaltwin.vic.gov.au](https://digitaltwin.vic.gov.au).



In a flood emergency, stay informed through [VicEmergency](https://vicemergency.vic.gov.au), see [page 8](#) for more information.

## Your local services

### Catchment Management Authority

For general advice about flooding and controls on planning scheme amendments.

- **Corangamite Catchment Management Authority**  
[ccma.vic.gov.au](https://ccma.vic.gov.au) | 1800 002 262

### Local Council

For relief support after a flood event and general land use planning.

- **City of Greater Geelong**  
[geelongaustralia.com.au](https://geelongaustralia.com.au) | 03 5272 5272

# Plan and prepare for floods

## 1 How to stay informed

VicEmergency is Victoria's source of emergency information and warnings.

- Set-up a watch zone for your area for alerts when warnings are issued.
- Learn about the three different warning levels.



VicEmergency app  
[emergency.vic.gov.au](https://emergency.vic.gov.au)  
1800 226 226



vicemergency



@vicemergency



## 2 Make an Emergency Plan

Use information from your Local Flood Guide and your Catchment Management Authority, to help you decide;

- What you will do in a flood emergency
- When you will do it
- Who you will inform



Red Cross RediPlan is a free tool that helps you create a simple emergency plan that supports the flood actions you have chosen.

- Visit [redcross.org.au/prepare](https://redcross.org.au/prepare)
- Download the [Get Prepared](#) app

## 3 Prepare an emergency kit



You may need to stay safe for 72 hours in a disaster before help arrives. Make sure you have safe drinking water, food, and any special needs or medications for all family.



There will be extra items to be added to your emergency kit in an emergency like clothes, a phone and charger.



Watch a video on how to get your Emergency kit ready.  
[youtu.be/XgyLnKDMkNo](https://youtu.be/XgyLnKDMkNo)

## 4 Reduce impacts to your property

- ☐ Keep gutters and drains clear of debris including leaves and any other items.
- ☐ Check your building and contents insurance, what kind of flooding does it cover?
- ☐ Move your valuable possessions up high.
- ☐ Back up important files and documents to a cloud storage or USB kept elsewhere.
- ☐ Identify higher ground on or around your property, away from the danger area.
- ☐ Consider buying sand and sandbags ahead of time, refer to our Sandbag Guide for more information.

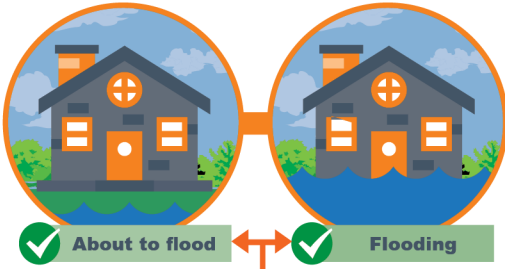


For more details and other tips, visit:  
[ses.vic.gov.au/flood](https://ses.vic.gov.au/flood)



# What to do in a flood emergency

## When to call VICSES



**Flood emergency assistance call VICSES 132 500**



**If life threatening call triple zero 000**

## Stay Informed

### VicEmergency

Emergency warnings will provide information on what is happening and advice of what you should do.

**You may not receive an official warning before a flood.**



VicEmergency app  
[emergency.vic.gov.au](https://emergency.vic.gov.au)  
1800 226 226



vicemergency @vicemergency



■ Set-up a watch zone for alerts for your area.

### Bureau of Meteorology



Monitor rainfall, river levels, weather forecasts/warnings.

[bom.gov.au/vic/flood/corangamite.shtml](https://bom.gov.au/vic/flood/corangamite.shtml)

### Emergency broadcasters



**Radio** | ABC 774 AM, Bay FM 93.9, K-Rock FM 95.5

**TV** | Sky News

## If you expect floodwater at your property

1



### Bag it

Sandbag doorways and low-lying windows to slow floodwater entering your home.

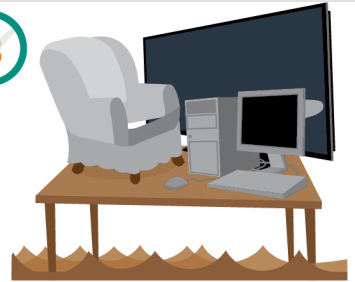
2



### Block it

Block toilets, bath and drains using a sandbag ideally placed inside a plastic rubbish bag.

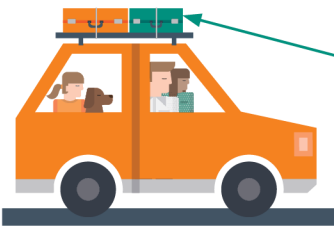
3



### Lift it

Put your valuables and electrical items as high as possible. Turn off power, gas, and water at the mains.

4



### Leave

■ Leave **before** the flood arrives.

■ Check warnings from VicEmergency for information like evacuation or relief centres, and road closures.

■ Travel to the home of family or friends who are in a safe location, away from the flooded area.

### Take your emergency kit and add the items below:



Phone & charger



Prescriptions & medication



Clothes for your family



Strong shoes



Pet needs

## Never drive through floodwater

Large



A Large 4WD can be moved by water only 45cm deep.

Small



A small car can be moved by water only 15cm deep.



For more details and other tips, visit:

[ses.vic.gov.au/flood](https://ses.vic.gov.au/flood)



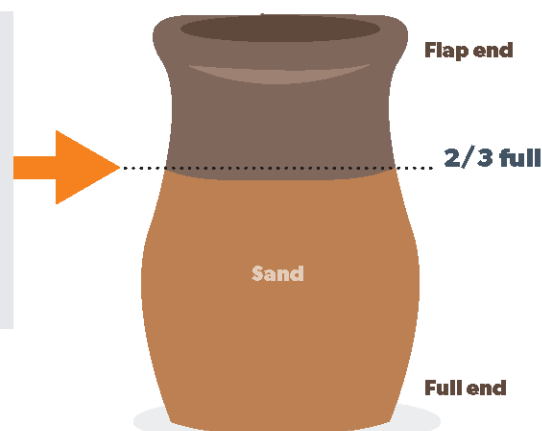
# Sandbagging

## Protecting your home

Sandbags won't stop the water completely, but can reduce the amount of water entering your home.

### How do I fill a sandbag?

- Only use sand to fill hessian bags. Do not use dirt.
- Only fill sandbag two-thirds full.
- Do not over fill the sandbag as it will be too heavy to carry.
- Do not tie the top of the sandbag.
- Take care when filling and lifting the sandbag, to avoid injury.



### How do I lay sandbags?

- Lay sandbags like brickwork. Stagger rows so that the joins do not line up.
- Start at one end and work to the other end.
- Ensure the unfilled part of the bag is covered by the next bag.
- Tuck flap under the bag at the end of the row.
- If the sandbag wall is going to be more than five (5) bags high, you will need to lay two (2) rows wide.



### Where do I place the sandbags?

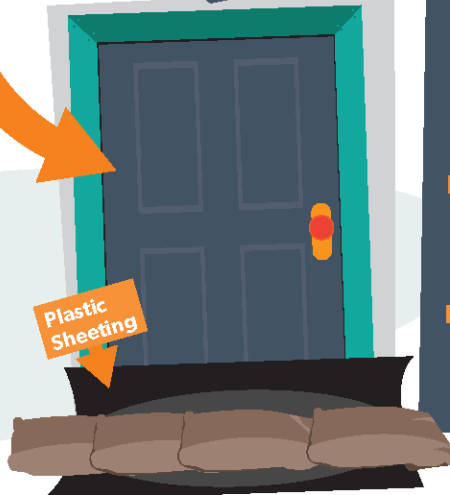
- Place sandbags in plastic bags to cover drainage holes in home (e.g. showers, toilets, sinks) to stop back flow of water.
- Place a small wall across doorways, at least the height of the expected water level. Be careful not to trap yourself inside.
- If available, plastic sheeting may be used under sandbags to reduce the seepage.

#### Block it

Toilets, bath and all drain holes



Plastic Sheeting



### What do I do once I have finished with the sandbags?

- Sturdy gloves should be worn when handling wet sandbags as they can contain chemicals, waste and diseases.
- Sandbags that have been in contact with floodwater need to be thrown away.
- Contact your local council to find out how to dispose of your sandbags safely.



# Sandbags and sand

## Preparing your home

Having sandbag supplies ready can assist you before a flooding emergency occurs.



### *What supplies do I need to sandbag my home?*

- Sandbags
- Sand
- Plastic sheeting
- Gloves and safety goggles
- Shovel or hand scoop

### *Where can I purchase these supplies?*

- Many sandbag supplies can be purchased from hardware stores or garden centers.
- VICSES do not routinely supply sandbags to households.
- During floods, sandbag distribution points may be established in flood-affected areas.

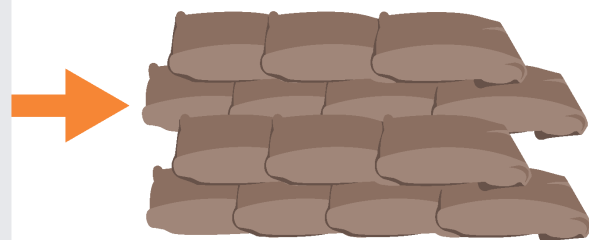


### *How many sandbags will I need and how much sand?*

- Most homes can be protected by less than 25 sandbags.
- The number of sandbags will depend on your local flood risk and availability.
- Sandbags are filled 2/3 full which requires around 15-20kgs of sand per bag.

### *How do I store my sand and sandbags?*

- Filled sandbags only have a short shelf life.
- It is recommended to store sandbags empty.
- Sandbags should be stored in a cool dry area away from UV light.
- Sand should be kept dry and can be stored in water-resistant containers or under a tarp.
- Sand is heavy - ensure it is stored so it can be moved safely.



### *When should I sandbag my home?*

- **You** are best placed to decide if there is a need to sandbag your home, based on local knowledge and past flood events.
- Monitor your local conditions. Stay up-to-date with weather forecasts and warnings by downloading the **BOM Weather** and **VicEmergency** apps, or call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.
- If you think you are at risk, do not wait for an official warning to act.

