

Protecting Yourself from Flooding

If you have experienced water problems in the past, you should not wait for the problem to go away. Here are some things you can do:

- Read about flood-proofing and get more information from the Laramie County Library on the measures appropriate for your building.
- Check out flood insurance coverage.
- Read about the City's construction and dumping regulations. Follow these rules and report violations to the Public Works Department at (307) 637-6288.

Flood-proofing: Flood-proofing a structure means altering it so damage from floodwaters will be reduced or eliminated. Different flood-proofing techniques are appropriate for various types of buildings. Use the following as a guideline:

- If you have a basement, split level, or other floor below ground level, read the *Homeowner's Guide to Retrofitting: Six Ways to Protect Your House from Flooding* (FEMA publication 312). This document can be viewed at the Laramie County Public Library or ordered (for free) from FEMA by calling 800-480-2520 or viewed and downloaded from the [FEMA](#) website.
- If your structure is on a slab foundation, investigate a low floodwall, berm or "dry flood-proofing" (i.e., making the walls watertight and closing all the openings when a flood occurs). Please note that modifications to existing grading or floodwall installation may require a permit from the City; contract the City if planning this type of project.
- If your structure is on a crawlspace, a low floodwall, berm or "wet flood-proofing" would be a benefit. "Wet flood-proofing" means moving all items subject to damage out of harm's way so water can flow into the crawlspace and not cause any problems.

In addition, FEMA's recent publication, *Protecting Building Utilities from Flood Damage* can be viewed or downloaded from the [FEMA](#) website.

Emergency Measures: No matter what kind of building you have, some last-minute emergency measures can always help. For example, you could move valuable items (i.e., photos, antiques) or items most damaged by floodwater (i.e., upholstered furniture) up to a higher level. You can place sandbags or plastic sheeting in front of doorways and other low entry points.

Whatever emergency protection measures you use, it is always best to have a plan written in advance to make sure you do not forget anything after the flood warning has been issued.