

Protect  
your home,  
property and  
family now.

Before the  
next flood.

An ounce of  
prevention is  
worth it.

Isn't it?

Protect your  
home from  
future flood  
damage.

For free answers to technical questions or for information on available programs and flood damage reduction techniques, contact your state floodplain management officials.

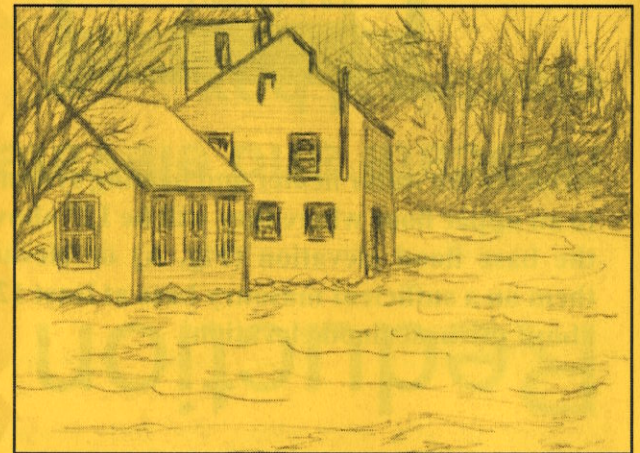
For flood insurance information call your local insurance agent or the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) at 1-800-427-4661



FEMA



“an ounce  
reducing  
of prevention  
future  
is worth  
flood  
a pound  
damages  
of cure”



Federal Emergency Management Agency



**the recent floods** have increased our awareness of the need to protect our homes and property. Floods will strike again, but their effects need not be disastrous.

**the proverb's** ago-old meaning is clear. It's less expensive to protect your home and property before they are damaged than to repair them afterwards. Why spend time, energy, and money replacing your damaged items only to have them damaged in a future flood? If you are repairing your home or replacing its contents, take that extra step now to protect your home and family for the future. Recovering from your losses includes reducing your risk to future flooding.

**consider** these three important questions as you start along the path toward making your home safer.

## what is your flood risk?

Do you know of any history of flooding near your home? Find out if your home is in a flood hazard area. Ask owners before you buy or rent. If you need flood zone information, contact your community officials to view the flood maps kept on file. Flood maps are generally kept in the Building Permit Department or with the floodplain manager.

## what flood protection measures can you take?

When homes are destroyed or severely damaged by a flood, serious consideration may be given to relocating out of the floodplain, elevating the repaired buildings, or investing in a flood control project.

In many cases where flood damage is not extreme, you may consider techniques that are far less expensive. Sketches of these techniques are included inside this brochure to guide you in protecting your home.

## what about flood insurance?

Once you have identified your risk, and taken the appropriate flood protection measures, you should protect your financial investment by purchasing flood insurance - on your home and its contents.

Contact your insurance agent to purchase flood insurance. If your agent is unable to write a flood insurance policy or refer you to someone who can, call the National Flood Insurance Program at 1-800-427-4661 for assistance.

## getting started

It is important to talk with your local building officials before you start any work. They can provide useful information on safe building methods.

Consult with a licensed contractor, architect, or structural engineer, if necessary, to evaluate your construction project. Have them prepare recommendations and construction documents to obtain a building permit for reconstruction or retrofitting. If you plan to do the project on your own, contact your local building officials to obtain information on building codes and documents required for a permit.

## selecting a contractor

Avoid adding more frustration to your recent flooding experience by selecting a qualified contractor. Look for the following factors:

- Experience in the type of work you need
- Local building knowledge
- Good references, license, bond, and proper insurance
- A time schedule that meets your needs

Use the services of the Contractors State License Board before you hire a contractor or sign a contract. They should be able to answer questions such as:

- Is your contractor licensed?
- Is your contractor in good standing?
- Is your contractor in the proper trade to fit your project?

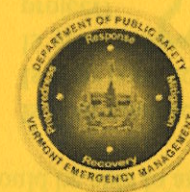
Once you have found a few qualified contractors, obtain a minimum of three bids. Compare equal bids for best price and best qualifications.



# Flood Damage Reduction Techniques



Vermont Emergency Management Agency  
103 South Main Street  
Waterbury, VT 05671-2101



Tel. 802.244.8721  
Toll Free 1.800.347.0488  
HazMat 1.800.641.5005  
TTY 1.888.545.7598

## relocate and elevate electrical box

Fig. A

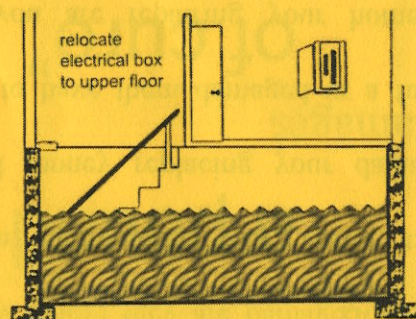
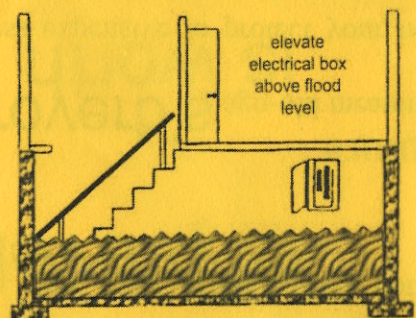


Fig. B



Relocate the electrical box to an upper floor (Fig. A) or elevate the electrical box to a recommended 12" safety margin above base flood elevation (Fig. B)

## anchor fuel tank

Fig. A

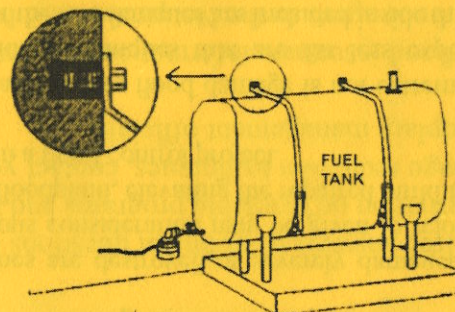
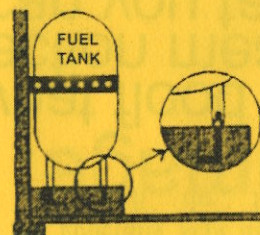


Fig. B



Anchor the fuel tank to the wall (Fig. A) or floor (Fig. B) to prevent floating and overturning. Metal structural support and fasteners must be non-corrosive. Wooden structural supports must be pressure-treated.

## install septic backflow valve

Fig. A

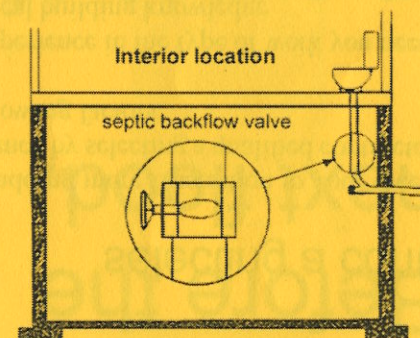
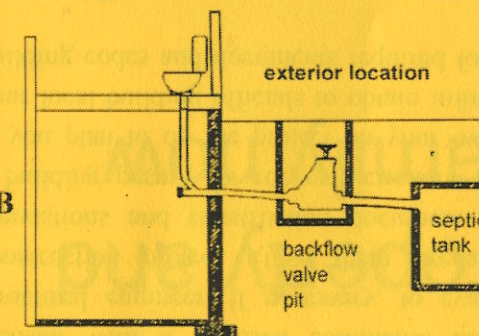


Fig. B



Prevent sewer back-up from entering your home. Install an interior (Fig. A) or exterior (Fig. B) septic backflow valve.



## relocate and elevate water heater and heating systems

Fig. A

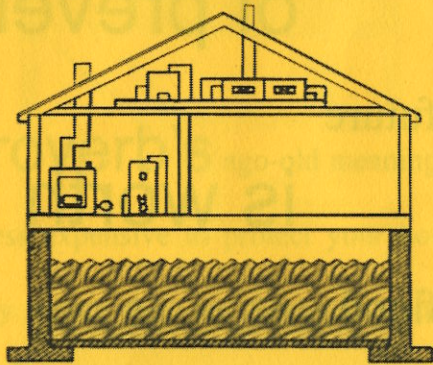
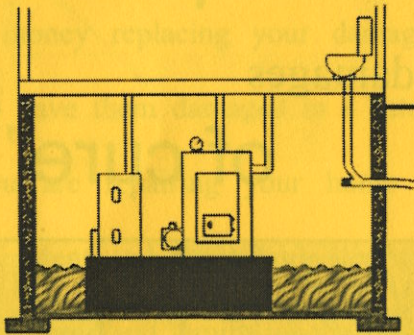


Fig. B



Relocate the water heater and heating systems to an upper floor where they will be 12" above the base flood elevation (Fig. A) or elevate them on a sufficient masonry base at least 12" above the base flood elevation.

## relocate and elevate washer and dryer

Fig. A

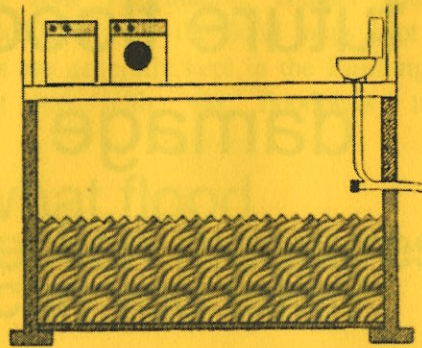
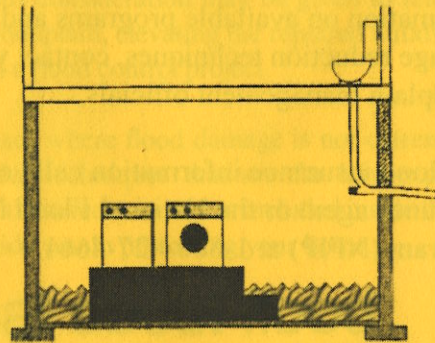


Fig. B



Relocate the washer and dryer at least 12" above the base flood elevation (Fig. A) or elevate them at least 12" above the base flood elevation on a base of masonry or pressure-treated lumber.

## install floating floor drain plug

Fig. A

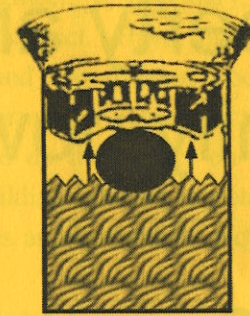
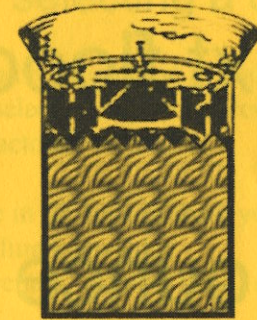


Fig. B



Install a floating floor drain plug at the lowest point of the lowest finished floor. This will allow the water to drain (Fig. A). When the floor drain pipe backs up, the float rises and plugs the drain (Fig. B).

**These sketches are intended as guidelines.**

**All work must conform with state and local building codes.**