

*This flood insurance fact sheet is provided for display and distribution - specifically to home and property owners - and is intended to be shared in full or in part to better equip Minnesotans with suggestions and information on ways they can better protect themselves and their property. Copy and paste the paragraph below into your stakeholder newsletter.*

In the land of 10,000 lakes, every Minnesotan is at risk of flood damage. Recent press coverage in Minnesota has highlighted the increased [threat of spring flooding](#) and the [importance of purchasing flood insurance now](#). The National Weather Service reports an elevated threat for spring flooding across the state. Despite its annual occurrence, snow melt and the threat posed by flooding continue to cause many Minnesotans to suffer major property damage and serious financial losses due to a lack of flood insurance protection. Of the roughly 2 million households in Minnesota, only 11,000 buy flood coverage. Flood insurance is worth considering even for Minnesotans who do not live in mapped flood-prone areas. Misconceptions of cost, who is eligible, what is covered under standard home or business insurance policies, and where to obtain flood insurance abound. The majority of flood insurance offered is through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Your insurance agent can help provide you more information about NFIP and discuss the best ways to protect your property. The first step to protecting yourself and your assets is to know the facts. [Go to www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) for more information.

## Flood Insurance Facts for Home and Property Owners

- **I am already covered, right?** Probably not, most homeowner's insurance policies **do not cover** flood damage. Furthermore, federal disaster assistance is only available if there is a Presidential disaster declaration, which does not happen with most flood events. Another benefit, on average, flood insurance pays more than four times as much as disaster relief to help affected homeowners recover from disaster faster.
- **Can I wait and see if there is water near me?** No. Consumers should be aware of a 30-day waiting period from when a homeowner buys a policy to when it goes into effect. Waiting for disaster to hit before purchasing a policy will not help. Act now.
- **How much does it cost?** Cost depends on several factors, such as where your property is located. For those outside of high-risk flood zones, there are Preferred Risk Policies that are about \$500 per year with the same building and content coverage as high-risk policies. Higher risk areas may cost more. Consider that one inch of water in your home can cause \$25,000 of damage.
- **Is flood insurance only for those in a flood zone?** No! Flood insurance is available to those in communities

who have agreed to participate in the NFIP and this includes most (88%) Minnesota communities. If your community has opted-in, you can purchase flood insurance. [Find out if your area is eligible](#).

- **Do I really need flood insurance?** Property owners may believe that if they do not live in the flood plain, they are not at risk. For the past three decades, 40% of flood insurance claims in Minnesota came from **outside** the high-risk zones. As major weather events increase in frequency and intensity, **everyone** is at risk.

For more information, visit [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) and "Flood Insurance Basics" at [mn.gov/commerce](http://mn.gov/commerce). As with any insurance policy, carefully review the details before purchasing.

Contact the Department of Commerce Consumer Services Center with questions or concerns about insurance at 651-539-1600, 800-657-3602 (Greater Minnesota), or via email at [consumer.protection@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.protection@state.mn.us).

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