

Sustainability and flood-resilient design

Natural disasters, particularly flooding, have become more common in Queensland. Flood events cause damage to homes, businesses and communities. Large amounts of waste go to landfill and clean up and repair is expensive.

Experts predict extreme rainfall will increase, so there is a higher risk that floods will affect homes. We can make our homes more resilient to floods and reduce flood waste.



How do floods impact us and the environment?



The 2022 South East Queensland flood affected more than 500,000 people and impacted around 18,000 homes and businesses.



After the North Queensland flood in June 2025, 33,000 tonnes of disaster waste was sent to landfill. That's roughly the weight of 220 blue whales or three Eiffel Towers.



The 2026 Bundaberg floods resulted in more than 400 tonnes of flood-damaged waste in the first week alone. This is equivalent to 80 fully loaded semi-trailers in a single week.

We can't stop flood waters, but we can use flood-resilient building design and materials in our homes. This will lead to less damage and save homeowners time and money while recovering from a flood.



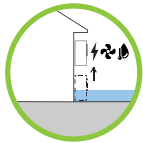
What is flood-resilient building and design?

Flood-resilient building and design includes materials and strategies that help protect your home from floods.

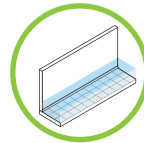
Resilient materials have been used for many years and are widely available at local hardware stores. Unlike standard materials, they can be cleaned and reused after a flood, instead of being replaced.

These materials generally have little extra cost compared to standard materials. Investing in flood-resilient materials now may help you save money, time and effort in the future.

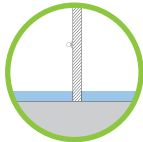
5 ways to improve a home's flood resilience



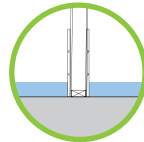
Raise the electrical switchboard, the hot water unit and air conditioning condenser units



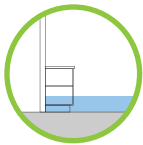
Replace non-water-resistant flooring with water-resistant flooring



Replace hollow core doors with solid core doors



Replace non-water-resistant wall linings with flood-resilient materials



Replace non-water-resistant cabinetry with water-resistant cabinetry

Know your flood risk

As of 2025, one third of all Queensland homes are at risk of flooding. Understanding your personal flood risk is the first step to protecting your home.

Every flood is different, and every flood-prone area has different types of risk. The flood-resilient strategies and materials you can use for your home depend on your flood risk.

To learn more about flood risk in your area, visit qld.gov.au/emergency/dealing-disasters/disaster-types/flood



More information

To find out how you can prepare your home for a flood, visit getready.qld.gov.au

For flood information from your local council, visit getready.qld.gov.au/find-your-local-council

To learn more about resilient building materials, talk to your builder or architect.



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