



FEMA

Fact Sheet

How to Buy Flood Insurance

Flood insurance is essential for any homeowner, business owner, or renter. This fact sheet is intended to help property owners become flood smart and get important answers to questions about buying a National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policy.

If your property is located in a community that participates in the NFIP, you can and should inquire about purchasing flood insurance. There's typically a 30-day wait period between when you purchase the policy and when it becomes effective, so timing is very important.

Call your insurance agent to discuss purchasing flood insurance. The agent who sold you your homeowners or renters insurance should be able to sell you a flood insurance policy. If not, you can find an agent by calling the NFIP Help Center, at 1-800-427-4661.

Helpful Questions to Ask your Insurance Agent:

- ✓ Ask the right questions so you can buy the flood coverage you need:
 - Does my homeowners insurance cover flood?
 - What flood zone do I live in? What is my property's flood risk?
 - What will and won't be covered?
 - How much coverage should I purchase for my building and for my contents?
 - When will my policy become effective?
 - Will my policy provide Replacement Cost Value or Actual Cash Value—and what's the difference between the two?
 - Do I qualify for a Preferred Risk Policy (PRP)?
 - Does my community participate in the NFIP's Community Rating System (CRS)? If so, does my home qualify for a CRS rating discount?
 - Is flood insurance mandatory for my property? Will the lender require it?
 - Are there additional expenses or agency fees?
 - How can I pay for my policy?
 - How do I renew my policy?

- ✓ Visit [FloodSmart.gov](https://www.floodsmart.gov) to learn more about "How to Buy" and information about the following:
 - Steps you can take to reduce the cost of your flood insurance.
 - Information about coverage and deductibles.
 - Exceptions that may allow your NFIP coverage to go into effect immediately.

FEMA's mission is helping people before, during and after disasters.