



Basement and Car Park Flooding

What to do if your basement or car park is prone to flooding

Fast Facts

When cleaning up a flooded basement or car park:

-  ensure electrical power is turned off
-  wear personal protective equipment
-  take photos to document damage for your insurance company
-  fans or dehumidifiers can help to reduce dampness
-  clean affected items with an antibacterial cleaning agent
-  eliminate bacteria by bleaching floors and walls
-  don't eat any food that has been exposed to floodwater

Check your insurance policy is current and adequate

How to find out if your basement or car park floods

Stormwater can often drain into basements and car parks located below ground level making them prone to flooding during heavy rainfall.

To protect your car and belongings, find out whether your underground car park floods before you decide to leave your car and belongings there. Have a chat with other people that use the car park about what happened last time it rained heavily and check for signs of previous flooding such as water damage or water marks.

Minimising flooded basement and car park damage

- The Bureau of Meteorology issues Severe Weather Warnings and Thunderstorm Warnings which can indicate if heavy rainfall is likely to cause flooding, and/or high winds.
- If a warning is issued and your basement or car park floods regularly, the safest option is to move your car to a sheltered area and away from trees before the storm arrives.
- If you use your basement or car park for storage ensure your personal belongings are located above flood level. Installing shelving or racks can assist you to lift items.

During a storm:

- Stay clear of electrical systems in or near the flooded basement or car park. Live electricity and water do not mix.
- Sandbags can be a last resort, to help stem the flow of water into an area. You can make a home-made sandbag using shopping bags filled with sand or soil.

