

EOS Eco-Energy's Guide to Reducing Home Flood Risk



Disclaimer: The following maintenance checklist is provided to assist in reducing your home flood risk. This list is not exhaustive, and is only intended to aid in keeping your home safe. Always consult professionals where required. This guide focuses on preventing basement flooding due to rain storms and melt events, not coastal storm surges or sea level rise.

For more information, additional resources, or to schedule your own free home flood risk assessment, visit <http://eosecoenergy.com/en/home-flood-resources/> or scan the QR code below.

Contact EOS Eco-Energy:

506-536-4487

<http://eosecoenergy.com/en>



Outdoor Seasonal Maintenance

Checklist

To be completed at least each season:

- ☐ Assess the condition and location of **trees** if they pose risks to power lines, sewer lines, etc; remove branches and prune back as needed
- ☐ Check **walkways, patios** and **driveway** for correct slope (1-2%), evidence of pooling, cracks and gaps; fill cracks, remove weeds, repair grading as needed
- ☐ Check that **downspouts** are connected to storm sewer or directed to nearest drainage ditch; make sure extensions are secured, free of leaks and depositing water at least 1.8m from foundation
- ☐ Check **foundation** for cracks, gaps, and efflorescence*, fill cracks, clear debris and clean as needed
- ☐ Check that **foundation drain** is functioning properly
- ☐ Check that **landscape grading** achieves a minimum 5% slope away from foundation and check for water pooling, regrade as needed
- ☐ Ensure **eaves troughs** are adequately sized and in good condition, remove debris and repair as needed

*Efflorescence is the buildup of minerals, leaving behind a white, powdery residue. Efflorescence is known to occur in unfinished concrete foundation walls and floors, and can be an indication of moisture.

Indoor Seasonal Maintenance Checklist

To be completed at least each season:

- ☐ Ensure **hazardous materials** and **electronics** are elevated and safely stored out of risk of flooding
- ☐ Check that **window frames, glass** and **seals** are in good condition both inside and outside
- ☐ Check **walls** and **floors** for high levels of moisture, indicating water entry into the basement, inspect floors for signs of water damage and mould growth, cracks in foundation, check **unfinished walls** and **floors** for efflorescence and clean as needed
- ☐ Check condition of **indoor plumbing** and **fixtures** (toilets, taps, hot water tanks, etc.), repair or replace as needed
- ☐ Ensure good **air circulation, relative humidity** (30-50%) and **temperature** (minimum 15°C) levels in the **basement** are optimal to reduce risk of mould and mildew
- ☐ If present, check that **floor drain** is clear of physical barriers to water flow and in adequate condition

Maintenance to Be Completed

As-Needed

- ☐ Check if **sump pump** and **backup sump pump** are in good condition, test backup power sources seasonally, before vacation and when an extreme rain/melt event is predicted
- ☐ If present, check if **backwater valve** is clear of debris often, before vacation, and an extreme rain/melt event is predicted, open the valve and clean out sediment as needed to ensure valve can close properly
- ☐ Check for proper **overland drainage** of the property following heavy rain; remove debris and obstructions from water flow paths
- ☐ Ensure **garden beds** leave a minimum of 20cm of foundation exposed to ensure proper air circulation; consider applying mulch to garden beds and aerating the lawn
- ☐ If present, have **septic tank** inspected every 2 years and pump it out at minimum every 3-5 years, or more often if needed
- ☐ Check **rain barrels** weekly during growing season for leaks, clear debris and ensure overflow pipe is extended from foundation/towards a drainage swale, empty and put away for winter and reconnect downspout extension
- ☐ Check **exterior taps** for leaks, shut off and drain for winter

Notes and additional maintenance for my property:

Reducing your flood risk and performing routine maintenance helps keep your home safer and saves you money.
Can you spot the differences between the risky and resilient homes ?



Answer key: The resilient home removed the old tree, installed eaves and an extended downspout, has a rain barrel, repaired cracked windows and a rain garden, and corrected the slope around the house so there is less flood risk