



Using your flood pod

How to protect your home in a
flooding emergency





What is a flood pod?

This leaflet explains how to locate and use your flood pod, as well as other measures you can do to protect your home.

Flood pods are dark grey steel storage boxes. They are positioned on pavements or Council land within areas that are at risk of flooding. Within the Flood Pods, they are filled with flood sacks & hydro snakes. These work like sandbags but are much lighter to carry and easy to dispose of after a flood.

Each pod is locked with a combination padlock. The code is shared with residents of the homes each pod serves and with a nominated member of the local community council.



Your flood pod code

1996

When to use your flood pod

Use your flood pod when SEPA issues a Flood Warning for your area, or when flooding is about to reach your home.



Only take what you need. Your neighbours may need flood sacks too.



Do not take flood sacks out in advance. If they are removed too early, there may not be enough left in an emergency.

If you require further assistance, please call us on **03451 55 00 11** and officers will aim to attend site as soon as possible.

Where is my nearest flood pod?

Check the live map on the using the link below to locate your nearest flood pod.

<https://www.fife.gov.uk/environment/flooding/flood-pods>

Report an empty or damaged pod

We check flood pods regularly. If your pod needs restocking or repair, please contact us by either email floodpods@fife.gov.uk or call **03451 55 00 11**.



If you are at immediate risk of flooding



Call **03451 55 00 11**, option 4 (Roads and Transportation) between 8am and 6pm.



Between 6pm and 8am, or at weekends, call **03451 55 00 99**



If there is a danger to life, call **999**

How to use flood sacks & hydro snakes

Flood sacks contain a super-absorbent gel that soaks up water and swells to form a barrier. Your flood pod contains blue flood sacks and red flood 'snakes', which are three sacks joined together for covering wider gaps.



- 1 Activate the sacks.** Soak them with a hose or put them in water for a few minutes until they swell.
- 2 Put them where water could get in.** Press them firmly into place across outside doors and over airbricks.
- 3 Stack them if needed.** Sacks can be stacked up to 30 to 40cm high.



Once activated, flood sacks can be reused for up to three months.

Disposing of used flood sacks

Cut the sack open, empty the gel onto your garden and put the outer sack in your general waste bin. The gel is environmentally friendly and does not absorb toxins from flood water, so it will not harm your garden, wildlife or pets.

Prepare in advance

If your home is at risk of flooding, or has flooded before, the best thing you can do is make it more flood resilient.



You may also be able to get up to £5,000 towards flood protection, such as flood doors and airbrick covers, through our **Property Flood Resilience Grant**.

<https://www.fife.gov.uk/environment/flooding/property-flood-resilience-grant>

Flood protection products

As well as flood sacks, there are other products that stop water getting into your home. For example:



Flood doors

Plastic or metal boards that fit across a doorway or window before a flood. They usually slide into a frame fixed to the door or window to make a watertight seal.



Airbrick covers

Covers that fit over airbricks on outside walls to stop water getting in.



The Blue Pages directory <https://bluepages.org.uk/> lists suppliers of flood protection products. For advice on which products would suit your home, contact the Scottish Flood Forum for a free property survey.



The Scottish Flood Forum

The Scottish Flood Forum is a charity funded by the Scottish Government. It supports people who have been affected by flooding or are at risk of it and can provide a flood protection guide or a free property survey. To find out more, contact:

Scottish Flood Forum



Phone: **0131 563 9392**



Web: **scottishfloodforum.org**

Who does what in a flood?

Several public organisations work together to forecast flooding and help protect communities. Householders are responsible for protecting their own homes. You can be ready by:

- Fitting flood protection measures
- locate your nearest community flood group – speak to Scottish flood forum
- making a household or business flood plan
- signing up to SEPA’s free Flood line service at sepa.scot/floodline or by calling **0345 988 1188**
- insurance support through the [Flood-Re scheme](https://www.floodre.co.uk/)
<https://www.floodre.co.uk/>

Fife Council

- inspects watercourses on non-agricultural land and maintains road drainage
- manages formal flood defences and may provide sandbags in an emergency
- plans flood protection schemes in line with Scottish Government policy
- supports the emergency services during extreme weather events and arranges shelter for people who are evacuated

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

- monitors rivers and the sea to forecast flooding
- issues flood alerts and warnings, and gives advice on preparing
- provides information on areas at risk of flooding

Scottish Water

- manages public water supply and sewer networks
- reduces the risk of sewer flooding and responds to reports of it – call 0800 077 8778

Police Scotland

- co-ordinates the emergency services
- controls road traffic
- call 999 if you are in an emergency.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

- assists people during serious flooding where lives are at risk

Transport Scotland

- maintains drainage on trunk roads (A876, A90/M90, A92, A977 and A985 through Fife) and manages trunk road closures

Scottish Government

- sets flooding policy and funds SEPA's flood warning service

Scottish Flood Forum

- offers advice on flood protection, insurance and recovery, and helps set up community flood groups

For information during a flood



ONLINE

fife.gov.uk/flooding

facebook.com/fifecouncil

x.com/fifecouncil



LOCAL RADIO

Original 106 95.2 and 96.1 FM

Forth 1 97.3 FM

Tay FM 96.4 and 102.8 FM



PHONE

03451 55 11 99 recorded closure updates

03451 55 00 11 report a flood or fault (option 4)

03451 55 00 99 out of hours, 6pm to 8am and weekends

Flood warnings

SEPA Floodline 0345 988 1188

sepa.scot/floodline

Free property flood survey

Scottish Flood Forum 0131 563

9392

scottishfloodforum.org

Restock or report your flood pod

floodpods@fife.gov.uk **03451 55 00 11**



In an emergency where life is at risk, always call 999.