

Elevate Appliances

Overview

- If you have appliances in the basement, they may be at risk during flood events. Elevate the appliances onto platforms to avoid replacement/repair costs.
- Appliances include:
 - Refrigerator
 - Chest freezer
 - Washing machine
 - Dryer
- When elevating appliances, new outlets and new washing machine and dryer hook-ups may need to be installed.
- Elevate the washer and dryer near existing plumbing to reduce costs.
- If replacing appliances, upgrade to more efficient appliances, if possible.
- The cost of elevating appliances depends on the type of building and the location of the appliances.
- While elevating appliances, consider elevating important personal items/valuables as well.
- This strategy will not protect the structure from flooding but will help reduce flooding associated costs.



Key Takeaways

During flood events, flood water inside the building can damage appliances.

Additionally, appliances may dislodge and float during flooding events, which can cause more damage inside the structure.

To avoid replacement or repair costs related to flood damaged or destroyed appliances, the appliances can be elevated onto platforms.



I-ADAPT

Interior Adaptation

Elevate Appliances

Estimated Costs/Benefits

*U.S. dollars (2022), estimates are subject to change

Potential Costs		Potential Benefits	
Item (quantity)	Estimate	Post-Flooding Recovery Action	Estimate
New washer and dryer hookups	\$350-\$2,000	New washing machine and dryer set	\$1,000-\$1,800
New electrical outlet	\$100-\$250	New refrigerator	\$500-\$2,000
Re-wire basement (if necessary)	\$1,400-\$4,800	New chest freezer	\$500-\$1,000
Concrete platform (1-4)	\$110-\$160		
ESTIMATED TOTAL COST	\$560-\$7,690	ESTIMATED TOTAL SAVINGS	\$500-\$4,800

Additional Resources

- [FEMA Homeowner's Guide to Retrofitting \(Chapter 8\)](#)
- [FEMA Principles and Practices for the Design and Construction of Flood Resistant Building Utility Systems](#)
- [FEMA 9.0 Protecting Service Equipment](#)

Resources can also be found at <https://de.gov/iadapt>

Potential Funding Sources

- [Delmarva Power ENERGY STAR Certified Appliances Rebate Program](#)

Expected Maintenance

- Regular appliance maintenance.
- Periodically ensure that there is no damage to platforms.

Additional Actions

- Also elevate valuables and/or furniture.

Permitting Agencies

Contacts for permitting requirements include but are not limited to the following:

- Your city and/or county government for local flood ordinances or regulations
- Your city and/or county government for building permits
- Electrical permit for re-wiring basement

Who to Contact

- Plumber
- Electrician
- Contractor

Technical definitions and more information are located on the I-ADAPT website: <https://de.gov/iadapt>.



This information is intended to be used for planning purposes. It is not intended to substitute or take precedence over the guidance of design engineers, contractors, utility companies or regulatory agencies.

For more information, contact DNREC's Division of Climate, Coastal and Energy at DNREC_IADAPT@Delaware.gov

