

# Move Appliances to a Higher Floor

## Overview

- If you have appliances that are in the basement or below the Base Flood Elevation line, they are at risk during flood events.
- Appliances include:
  - Refrigerator
  - Chest freezer
  - Washing machine
  - Dryer
- When moving a washing machine and/or dryer, new hook-ups may need to be installed.
- When moving refrigerators and freezers, new outlets may need to be installed.
- Re-locate the washer and dryer near existing plumbing to reduce costs.
- If space on the higher floor is an issue, consider purchasing a dual washer/dryer.
- If replacing appliances, upgrade to more efficient appliances, if possible.
- While moving appliances to a higher floor, move important personal items as well.



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## Estimated Costs/Benefits

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

Potential Costs		Potential Benefits	
Item	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
		New chest freezer	\$500- \$1,000
<b>ESTIMATED TOTAL COST</b>	<b>\$100- \$2,250</b>	<b>ESTIMATED TOTAL SAVINGS</b>	<b>\$500- \$4,800</b>

## Key Takeaways

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

Appliances may also float, which can cause more damage inside the structure.

To avoid replacement or repair costs related to flood damaged or destroyed indoor appliances, the appliances can be moved to a floor above the Base Flood Elevation line.



# I-ADAPT

## Interior Adaptation

### Move Appliances to a Higher Floor

## Additional Actions

- Other equipment, utilities and furniture may also need to be moved to a higher floor.

## Additional Resources

- [Delaware Homeowners Handbook to Prepare for Natural Hazards](#)
- [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](#)
- [DNREC Weatherization Assistance Program](#)

## 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 if installing new outlets.

## Expected Maintenance

- Regular periodic and annual appliance maintenance.

## Who to Contact

- Plumber
- Electrician
- Design engineer, contractor or other professional



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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](mailto:DNREC_IADAPT@Delaware.gov)

