

Move Valuables to a Higher Floor

Overview

- During flood events, floodwaters can enter a structure and severely damage or destroy personal belongings.
- If there are valuables in the basement or below the Base Flood Elevation line (BFE), the valuables are at risk during flood events.
- In addition to property damage, heavy or large valuables can become projectiles within the floodwaters and can damage the interior of the structure.
- In order to protect valuables, move them from the basement or ground floor to an area in the structure located above the BFE.
- Valuables can include:
 - Money
 - Important documents (e.g. passports, birth certificates, etc.)
 - Family heirlooms (e.g. family chests, furniture, urns, etc.)
 - Personal items (e.g. collectors' items, artwork, anything else that the property owner values)

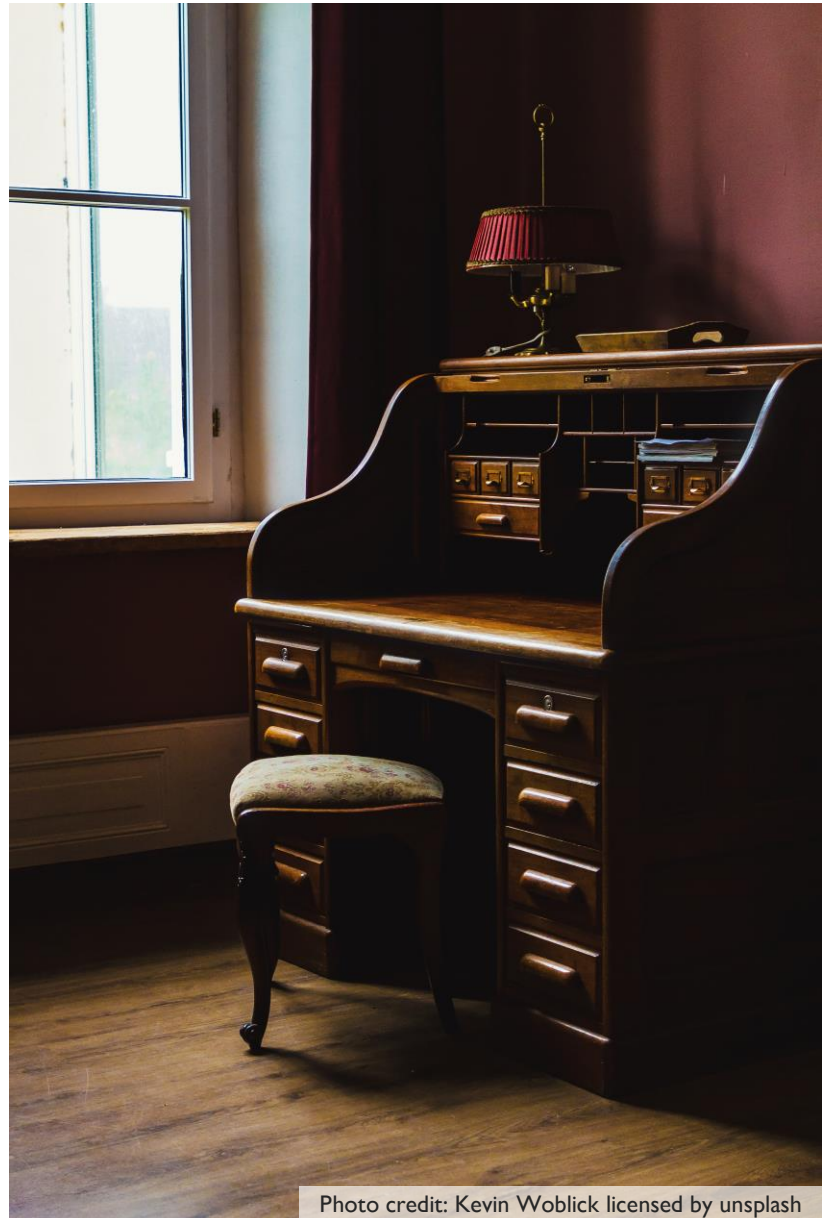


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Key Takeaways

During flood events, flood water inside the building can damage or destroy valuables.

If large valuables get dislodged, the valuables may float and become projectiles, which can cause damage to the interior of the structure.

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

I-ADAPT

Interior Adaptation

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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
Moving company for large items	\$80-\$200 per hour	Replacement of damaged or destroyed valuables	Value of the valuables
OR			
Do-It-Yourself	\$0		
ESTIMATED TOTAL COST	\$0-\$200	ESTIMATED TOTAL SAVINGS	Value of the valuables

Expected Maintenance

- Regular maintenance of the valuables.

Additional Actions

- In addition to moving the valuables, consider purchasing a waterproof safe for extra security.

Permitting Agencies

- No permits required.

Who to Contact

- Moving company if valuables include large items such as furniture.

Additional Resources

- [FEMA Protect Your Home from Flooding](#)
- [FEMA Protect Your Property from Flooding](#)

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



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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

