

## What does flood insurance cover?

Flood insurance coverage may include the structure of the building or be written to cover only the contents of the home.

**Building coverage** insures a house or dwelling, attached and detached garages, as well as certain permanently installed fixtures such as built-in dishwashers, permanent shelving and cabinetry, furnaces and radiators, hot-water heaters, plumbing fixtures, stoves, ovens and refrigerators.

**Contents coverage** insures most of your personal property and belongings, including:

- Clothing
- Furniture, housewares, bedding
- Decorative items and light fixtures
- Books, home electronics
- Area rugs and draperies
- Clothes washers and dryers
- Food freezers and food in them
- Portable microwave ovens
- Air conditioners



Your home and belongings are at risk if you experience flooding. Be sure your valuables are protected by flood insurance.

Do I need flood insurance if:

- ◆ I live on a hill?
- ◆ I'm miles away from any rivers?
- ◆ I live in an arid state such as Colorado?

Floods can occur anywhere, although to varying degrees. If you live in an area that has never flooded, your risk may be reduced, but it is not eliminated. Flooding can be caused by melting snow, inadequate drainage systems, failed dams, as well as by storms.

Flooding can happen anywhere.

Colorado's worst flood events have historically occurred from spring rain and summer storms, but other events can also do damage. For example, if a storm sewer overflows, without flood insurance you may be responsible for repairing the damage to your home and belongings — but that type of loss may be covered on your flood insurance policy under some circumstances.

Make an informed decision about the flood risks when considering flood insurance. Talk to your agent for details – you may qualify for a preferred risk policy (a lower-cost flood insurance policy) depending on where you live.

For more information, visit the National Flood Insurance Program Information site:  
**www.FLOODSMART.GOV**  
or call **888-4FLOODS**.



*Consumer protection is our mission*

### Colorado Division of Insurance

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# Flood Insurance

## in Colorado

### What you need to **KNOW**



- ◆ Who is eligible for flood insurance?
  - ◆ Who provides flood insurance?
    - ◆ What **is not** covered in a typical homeowners policy?
    - ◆ What potential damages can flood insurance cover?
    - ◆ How long does it take for flood insurance to go into effect?

### Colorado Division of Insurance



**Dora**  
Department of Regulatory Agencies

## Who needs flood insurance?

Many people do not realize that basic homeowners insurance does not include protection from flood damage. Often, homeowner policyholders mistakenly believe that if a flood occurs, standard homeowners insurance would cover the cost to restore or replace structures and belongings.

### It doesn't.

Instead, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) administers flood insurance through a federal program. Optional National Flood Insurance does cover specific flood losses, for an average

*Flood Insurance is **not** part of basic or standard homeowners insurance.*

cost of about \$1 a day, depending on where you live and the coverage you choose. **Flood insurance is only available as a separate policy.**

## What is NOT covered by standard homeowners insurance?

*The standard Homeowners*

*policy **excludes** property damage to structures and personal property from:*

- Floods, including, but not limited to, surface water, waves, tidal water or overflow of any body of water, or spray from any of these, whether or not driven by wind.
- Water or any other substance that backs up through sewers or drains.
- Water or any substance that overflows from a sump pump, sump pump well or other system designed to remove subsurface water which is drained from a structure's foundation.
- Water or any other substance on or below the surface of the ground, regardless of its source. This includes water or any other substance which exerts pressure on, or flows, seeps, or leaks through any part of the residence premises.

**You must have separate flood insurance to cover these potential losses.**



Floods can happen anywhere there is a storm, snowmelt or river.

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is a federally subsidized program that is available to any property owner or renter whether or not the building is in a floodplain. Flood insurance is sold through private insurance agents. The NFIP is based on an agreement that if a community implements measures to reduce future flood risks to new construction or substantial re-construction, the

federal government will make flood insurance available within the community as financial protection against flood losses which do occur. You can buy flood insurance if your community belongs to the NFIP. There are currently more than 230 cities, counties, and towns in Colorado that participate in the program.

## Who is vulnerable to flood damage?

Floods can happen in high, medium and low-risk flood zones. There is no way to predict where a flood will strike. Floods can accompany other natural disasters such as storms, early snowmelts, and rising rivers. About 25 percent of all flood insurance claims come from outside high-risk areas.

## Who is eligible for National Flood Insurance?

Homeowners, renters and business owners with property in communities that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program can purchase flood insurance.

## Is flood insurance only available to homeowners?

Flood insurance is available to protect homes, condominiums, apartments and non-residential buildings, including commercial structures. Ask your insurance agent about limits of coverage for each.

## How long until flood insurance goes into effect?

There is usually a 30-day waiting period, after applying for coverage and paying the premium, before the flood insurance policy becomes effective.

Ask your insurance agent if there are any exceptions in your case.

You can purchase flood coverage at any time; however, a flood policy does not cover a loss in progress.

A loss in progress is one that is already happening as of 12:01 a.m. of the first day of the policy term.

## Where can I get National Flood Insurance?

Many insurance agents in Colorado offer flood insurance as an option. Contact your renters or homeowners insurance agency.

To search for an agent by your zip code, contact the National Flood Insurance Program at **888-4FLOODS (888-435-6637)** or **WWW.FLOODSMART.GOV** on the web.

**Colorado Division of Insurance**  
[www.dora.state.co.us/insurance/](http://www.dora.state.co.us/insurance/)