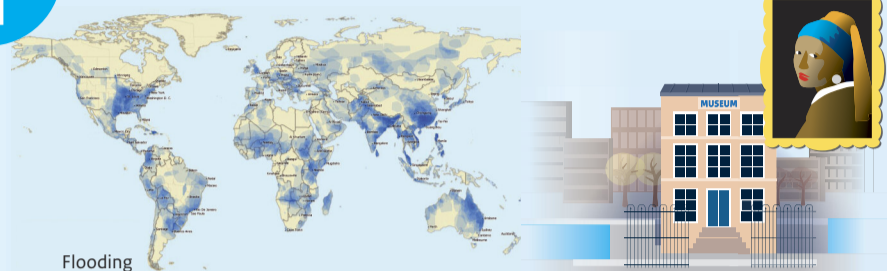




Becoming aware of water in five steps

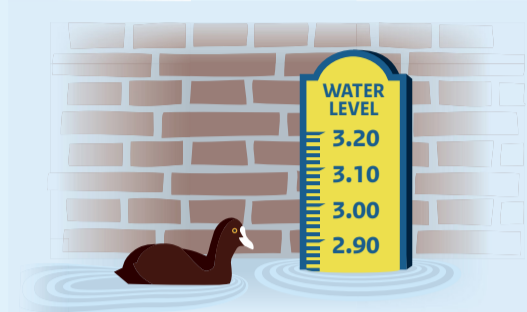
1 What is the chance of exposure to flood or heavy rain at your heritage site?



Flooding

Consult sources to find out more about the water level and rainfall in your area:

- National Meteorological Service
- National Risk Maps
- National Environmental Agencies
- National Water Board
- Local councils



2 How well are you protected and what do you still need? Make an inventory of measures in place, improve where necessary or take additional measures.



Water Awareness Checklist

Organization

Avoid



- Up-to-date Emergency plan with list of priorities and collection Emergency response instructions (CER plan)
- Set up a crisis organization and CER organization
- Hold an annual CER drill and adapt the Emergency plan if necessary
- Building maintenance plan
- Emergency materials and trolley ready to roll*

Block



- Arrange for relevant 'barriers' to block water from entering

Detect



- Check weather forecast and water levels regularly
- Alarm response

Building

- Choose low-risk site for new buildings (high and dry)
- Good rainwater discharge and drainage around the building
- Green, soil and grass/gravel
- Keep gutters and pipes clean and free from leaves
- Dykes, banks and ditches for water discharge
- Drainage pipes in floors and near water-carrying installations

- Watertight outer shell and floors
- Sills and thresholds at high water level
- Temporary water defences: tarpaulins, sand bags, barriers, shutters, inflatable barricades
- Non-return valve in sewer

- Water detectors at low points and near installations
- Periodic inspection* inside and outside – extra inspection after heavy rains and when snow melts

Collection

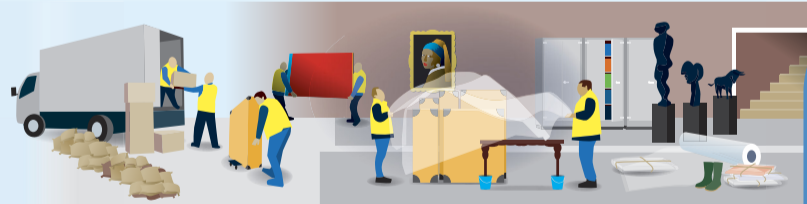
- Raise objects off the floor
- The bottom shelves of racks >10 cm above the floor
- Ensure distance between objects and walls
- Place vulnerable objects on upper floors, above water level

- Watertight storage packaging (boxes, crates, cabinets)
- Cover cabinets, racks and large objects with plastic sheet

- Periodic inspection inside*

* look for leaks, wet spots, water stains, algal growth, mould, a musty smell, wet objects and wet packaging

3 What do you do when flooding or heavy rain is imminent? How much time do you have, what do you have to do first and what next?



4 What do you do when water enters the building? Follow the Emergency plan with collections emergency response (CER) instructions.



Organization

Respond



- Implement the Emergency plan
- Crisis team and CER team in action
- Emergency materials organized
- Collect, mop up, extract and pump away water

Building

- Close doors and windows
- Put temporary water defences into place

Collection

- Cover objects, place them away from the water run
- Place objects on blocks and the legs of furniture in buckets
- Evacuate objects horizontally and/or vertically

* Emergency materials

mop/floor-cloths
towels
(square) buckets
chamois leathers
sponges
rubber gloves
rubber boots

broom
squeegee
brush
helmet
torch and batteries
polyethylene sheet
absorbing paper

unprinted newspaper
paper towels (roll)
microfibre cloths
water vacuum cleaner
extension leads
fan
tools

barrier tape
tarpaulin
plastic crates
garbage bags

5 Despite all actions your collection is wet... Recover and treat wet objects.

Download 'ERS: Emergency Response and Salvage' app



Recover/treat



- Act quickly, preferably within 48 hours
- Contact your insurer
- Call in professional help: conservator-restorer, salvage company
- Register the incident
- Beware of collapse of water saturated structural elements
- Dry the interior of the building and clean up
- Reinforce the weak spots in the outer shell
- Separate dry objects from wet and dirty objects (triage)
- Consult the ERS app for how to deal with wet objects
- Return the collection only when the building is dry and clean