

Flood risk in Camden

In July 2021, London was hit by severe flash flooding. The rain caused damage and disruption to homes and businesses across Camden. Many residents had to leave their homes due to the sewer and storm water. In August 2022, London seen further flash flooding, causing disruptions to roads and transport services.

Three sources of flooding in Camden

1 Surface Water:

Flooding that occurs when rainfall overwhelms drainage networks causing water to flow overland, rather than via the drainage network.

2 Sewer Surcharge:

Flooding that occurs when rainfall, overwhelms drainage networks resulting in wastewater spilling out via drains, toilets and sinks in buildings.

3 Groundwater:

Groundwater flooding occurs when underground water levels, rise after long periods of increased rainfall. Basements are susceptible to this flooding.



Causes of Flash Flooding



Intense rainfall

- Rainfall can overwhelm the drainage networks
- Rainfall on saturated ground cannot be absorbed
- Rainfall on pavements cannot pass through the ground



Prolonged dry weather

- Dry soil takes longer to absorb rain
- Dried out trees, leads to more leaf fall (causing blocked gullies)

Increased flood risk

What can you do?

- Consider de-paving driveways or paving with permeable materials e.g gravel, block paving and resin-bound paving to help reduce localised flooding
- Installing a water butt to capture rainfall, reducing the amount rain entering our drainage network, reducing surface water flooding
- Coordinate community leaf/litter picks
- Consider flood prevention measures such as easy storing Hydrosnakes or Floodsax
- Consider retrofitting homes to be protected in a flood

Head to: [camden.gov.uk/flooding#ukuv](https://www.camden.gov.uk/flooding#ukuv) to find out more

Flood risk in Camden



PREPARE. ACT. REPORT. RECOVER

While the council will do what it can to reduce the risk of flooding for residents, it is important to know how to prepare and respond to flooding.

! Prepare – before flooding occurs

- Whilst flash flooding can happen anywhere, some areas may be more at risk. Check your area's flood risk at gov.uk/check-long-term-flood-risk
- Sign up for weather warnings at metoffice.gov.uk
- If storms are forecast prepare a 'flood kit' with your essential items
- Talk to your neighbours and wider community about flooding and what to do if flooding occurs. Support vulnerable neighbours to identify safe exit routes from their property

! Report – if it is safe to do so, report flooding as it occurs or following the event

- If flooding is from outside your property (from the road or pavement), report to Camden Council on **020 7974 4444**
- If your toilet, sink or bath is flooding, call Thames Water on **0800 316 9800**
- For blocked gullies or drains, which are not on private property, report online at camden.gov.uk/report-street-issue



! Act – during a flood event

- If you are in immediate danger, call **999**
- If you have a safe and dry exit route, leave the property, or move to higher ground
- Turn off electricity, gas, and water if safe to do so
- Avoid flood water if possible
- Never drive through flood water

! Recover – after a flood event

- If you've had to leave your home, check with the emergency services that it's safe before you return
- Get help - The Environment Agency has specially trained Flood Support Officers across the country who provide information and advice during and after floods. Call Floodline (24-hour service) on **0345 988 1188**
- More information on flood recovery is provided by the Environment Agency at check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/recovering-after-a-flood

