Water Resistant Building Materials

Introduction to the Home Flood Protection Program

The Home Flood Protection Program is an educational program designed to help homeowners reduce their risk of basement flooding and minimize damage if flooding occurs. The program is delivered by the Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation (ICCA) at the University of Waterloo in Waterloo, Ontario.

Sample Flood Resistant Building Materials to Consider When Finishing Your Basement

Address Flood Risks First

If you are thinking of finishing your basement or are repairing your basement after flood damage, it is critical to address flood risks before you invest in renovations. Once problems are addressed, work with your contractor to discuss options for using flood resistant building materials just in case there is a flood in the future.

Get Quotes Comparing Flood Resistant Versus Non-Flood Resistant Building Materials

Get a quote for using flood resistant building materials and non-flood resistant building materials for comparison. If you have experienced a flood and are working with your insurance company to repair damage to your basement, you may be able to work with them to pay the difference to update your repairs to flood resistant materials.

Invest in Long Term Savings and Peace of Mind

The materials included in the list below generally require cleaning and sanitizing after a flood but do not require replacement. A small additional upfront cost may end up saving you thousands of dollars and countless headaches in the future.

Help us improve the Resource List

We welcome your input! If there is additional feedback and content that you would like to see added, please share it with us. All requests can be directed to Janet Szydlowski, Home Flood Protection Program Assistant at floodprotect.info@uwaterloo.ca

Please note: The Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation is providing this list of water resistant building materials for the convenience of interested homeowners only. The Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation is in no way providing advice of any kind and does not endorse any of the products identified below.

Category	Flood Resistant Materials
Walls and ceilings	• Brick, metal, concrete, concrete block, porcelain, slate, glass block, stone, and ceramic and clay tile • Cement board, reinforced concrete • Polyester epoxy paint • Pressure treated lumber or steel studs • Pressure treated and marine grade plywood • Water resistant non-paper faced gypsum exterior sheathing • Steel wall panel
Insulation	• Foam and closed cell non-wicking • Water resistant materials
Flooring	• Concrete, concrete tile and precast concrete • Latex or bituminous flooring, ceramic, clay terrazzo • Vinyl and rubber sheets and tiles • Pressure treated wood
Other	• Metal doors • Fibreglass or vinyl doors • Metal, plastic or otherwise water resistant cabinetry (if built in) • Water resistant adhesives, fasteners and gaskets • Water resistant materials for sealing openings in building envelope

Information Source: Adapted from Alberta STANDATA publication, August 13, 2013 and CSA Flood Protection Guideline Draft, December, 2017