

FAQ

Steps to reduce the impact of flooding

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The concept of “multi-layer safety” was introduced in the National Water Plan in 2009. This concept makes it clear that there are different types of measure (‘layers’) that can be taken to reduce the flood risk. The concept comprises three layers:

Layer 1: steps that focus on reducing the probability to a given level

Layer 2: impact-mitigation measures

Layer 3: steps to improve disaster management for floods



Multi-layer safety is based on a risk approach: the focus is on both the probabilities and the possible consequences of flooding. The first layer is *prevention*: trying to prevent floods as much as possible. Measures to reduce the *impact* of a flood are found in layers 2 and 3. The second layer focuses on structuring our country on water-robust lines. The third layer is about good disaster management.

Possible measures in layer 2 include:

- Building as little as possible in areas with a high flood risk
- Making buildings water-resilient
- Elevated buildings (on earth mounds or piles)
- Floating buildings
- Ensuring that vulnerable household property is not kept on the ground floor or in cellars

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- Extra security/higher locations for critical infrastructure (such as electricity meters).

Possible measures in layer 3 include:

- The use of flood forecasting systems and communicating the resulting forecasts
- Drafting and/or improving disaster plans
- Informing residents about how to respond (for example: <https://overstroomik.nl/>)
- Evacuation drills
- Providing shelters/reception facilities
- Focus on recovery, aftercare and evaluation shortly after a flood.