

# Types of flooding

Understanding the different types of flooding can help you to better understand the flood risk in your area. Reporting a flood event to the authority who are responsible for managing the risk helps the issue to be investigated promptly.

## Surface water flooding

Surface water flooding (also known as pluvial) occurs when rainfall cannot drain away through drainage systems or the land, and flows over land instead. It can occur when ground is saturated.

Report to the Lead Local Flood Authority

## River flooding

River flooding (also known as fluvial) occurs when the capacity of a watercourse is exceeded, usually following intense or prolonged rainfall across the catchment area.

Report to the Environment Agency

## Groundwater flooding

Groundwater flooding occurs when the water table rises to the surface following prolonged rainfall. Risk of groundwater can be dependent on the geology of the area.

Report to the Lead Local Flood Authority

## Sewer flooding

Sewer flooding is the result of sewage systems being overwhelmed, either by intense rainfall, rising groundwater or blockages in the waste water system. It is also known as contaminated flooding.

Report to the local sewerage company

## Coastal flooding

Coastal flooding occurs when areas are flooded by the sea. This is due to high tides over-topping the land and can be significantly exacerbated by storm surges.

Report to the Environment Agency

Hampshire County Council is the Lead Local Flood Authority in Hampshire. You can contact us via [fwm@hants.gov.uk](mailto:fwm@hants.gov.uk) or 01962 846730



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