Whether you are at home, at work or on holiday, you can be at risk of flood. It important you take action to prepare for the risks associated with floods.

You need to clean up around your property.

You need to prepare your flood emergency kit.

You also need to develop your evacuation plan in case of emergency.

In terms of cleaning up around your property, it is important that you store any outdoor furniture and other objects lying around, such as an outdoor umbrella, in your garage or even inside your home.

Larger objects that are heavy to move, such as an outdoor table or trampoline, can be tied down securely to avoid them being carried away in floodwater.

Remember that water and electrical items do not mix. Electrical items such as power tools, water pump or lighting will be damaged if they are contaminated with flood water, and you may need to replace them completely. It is best to store these items high away from risk of flood damage.

It is important that you keep the gutters of your property clean. Make sure all gutters are clear of debris so rainwater can drain properly. If your gutters are filled with soil and leaves, rainwater may not be able to drain properly. Rainwater may overflow into your home and damage the interior. Make sure all your gutters are clear so that all rainwater can drain away from your home.

If your home is at risk of flooding or does flood, ensure any electrical items, such as your computer, laptop, vacuum cleaner and heater, are all unplugged and switched off at the wall, and stored high off the ground on a table or in cupboards, to avoid getting damaged in the flood.

Consider blocking your drains, such as your toilet, shower and bath drains. You can use old clothes or towels to cover the drains to prevent any backflow flooding into your home.

You will need to find and secure your pets into their pet carrier so they are ready to leave with you.

If you have any livestock, it is important that you know the area. If you keep livestock in a low-lying area at risk of flood, you need to move them to higher ground. Remember to store stock feed high up to avoid being contaminated by floodwater. If stock feed is contaminated by floodwater, it is toxic and you cannot use it. It is a good idea to practice relocating your animals to a safer area and time how long it takes to do this. or if you will need to herd them onto a truck or trailer, it is a good idea to practice this activity. Remember that animals may become distressed during an emergency, which may create time delays. Practicing beforehand will help you to work out the best options for your animals.

You will also need to prepare your flood emergency kit. The video Your Emergency Kit on the website

explains what you need to put in your kit. You can also find further information on the SES Flood Watch website.

Along with your emergency kit, you need to develop your evacuation plan. This will enable you to take alternative routes if necessary, due to road closures. For example, if you find that one road is blocked, you will know which alternative route to take.

Make sure you are dressed appropriately with strong sturdy shoes and strong gloves.

Do not wait to be told to evacuate from an area at risk of flooding, it is best you decide for yourself.

Your safest option is to leave early.

It is important to prepare yourself so you can avoid the risks associated with flood. For example, you could find yourself surrounded by water and isolated without assistance for several days. Yet if you are well prepared and confident about what you need to do if there is a flood risk, then you and your family will be safe.