



Homeowners Are Key to Stormwater Control

There are actions that we, as homeowners and citizens, can do to reduce the possibility of flooding in our neighborhoods. Simple preventative measures taken by us as individuals, neighbors, or a committee within Homeowner Associations can make a difference in mitigating the disastrous effects of severe rain events.

Your actions can help reduce the possibility of flooding in your area.

KNOWLEDGE

Know how your drainage system works in your area. Learn where sites flood and how water flows out of that area. Identify your critical outflow points that, if become blocked, will cause flooding in large areas. As an example, many retention lakes and ponds have **only one outflow pipe**.

PREVENTION

Prevention is the key to ensuring your drainage systems works properly during a storm. **DON'T WAIT UNTIL IT STARTS RAINING.**

ROUTINE CARE

DO NOT dump yard waste trash or debris into drainage ditches and culverts. Check and clean your drainage ditches on a regular basis. The trash and debris you remove now will not end up blocking a critical downstream drainage point. HOAs with retention lakes, ponds or major drainage culverts; inspect and clean critical drainage points on a regular basis. Monitor the water height of your retention lakes and ponds. Any unusual changes after a storm should be investigated and problems corrected.

BEFORE HURRICANE SEASON

Remove trash and debris from lakes, ponds and major drainage culverts. For people who live along retention ponds or major drainage culverts, ensure yard debris, woodpiles, lawn furniture, toys etc. are away from the waters edge and will not float away and block drainage systems if the water rises. Inspect critical drainage outflow points for buildup of trash and debris and clean as necessary.

Check and remove trash from retention ponds and lakes. If possible, check under drainage manhole covers along roads and remove any debris that will block drainage pipes. This is a common place to find plastic bags and a buildup of leaves. Inspect downstream drainage systems for blockage, to include pipes under major roadways. Notify the appropriate county or VDOT representative if drainage easements are blocked. Check drainage pipes in HOA common areas for blockage caused by tree roots or debris.



Blocked ditches like this one are prime causes of flooding during storms.

BEFORE HURRICANE/MAJOR STORM

Clean out any drainage ditches and drain grates around your home. Again, check and clean any critical drainage outflow points that effect large areas. Ensure emergency spillways or other lake overflow devices are not blocked. Remove any foot bridges or walkways that cross drainage ditches. Contact the York County Environmental and Development Services (EDS) for assistance if a blockage is in a county easement and exceeds your ability to remove. Do not wait until the day before the storm to call for assistance.

AFTER HURRICANE/MAJOR STORM

If possible, check your outflow points for blockage and clean as necessary. Contact EDS for assistance if necessary. **Safety should be your first priority. DO NOT attempt to clean drainage systems that are under water. It is too dangerous. Notify county officials.**