

There's a lot of water around here.

Living in Hampton Roads allows us to work and play in, on, under and around the water all year long.

With our ocean, bays and beaches, rivers, canals, lakes and waterways of all kinds—not to mention, rainfall of more than 45" a year—water is an important part of our lifestyle here in Hampton Roads. In fact, the very word "roads" is a nautical term meaning a protected area near shore where ships can safely set anchor.

That definitely describes this beautiful coastal region of southeastern Virginia with more than 5,000 miles of shoreline. Our natural landscape is reflected in our history. It was here, 400 years ago, that settlers sailed into the New World and onto our shores.

Today, we continue to embrace the waters that surround us, from the Chesapeake Bay, a national treasure, to the many waterways that exist in the coastal floodplain we call home.

Let's keep this a beautiful place to live.

Hampton Roads localities are committed to:

- improving the quality of life for all residents.
- improving the Chesapeake Bay and our local waterways.
- preserving, protecting and enhancing our developed and natural environments.

For more information about flooding in Hampton Roads and what you can do, please contact the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission.



Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
The Regional Building | 723 Woodlake Drive
Chesapeake, VA 23320

Phone | 757-420-8300
Fax | 757-523-4881
TTY | 757-390-2578



Water

**in Hampton Roads:
From Raindrops to
Ocean Waves**

Enjoy these tips for living in this coastal area.



It's raining, it's pouring...

With more than 45" of rainfall a year, things can be beautifully green. They can also be a bit soggy. But knowing how to protect yourself and your property will help you make the most of our climate.

Tropical storms, hurricanes and Nor'easters can affect tides, resulting in tidal flooding. These events can have an adverse effect on storm drains conveying precipitation.

Ways to Protect Yourself

- Do not walk or drive through floodwaters. There's no way to tell how deep the water is or how fast it's moving.
- Give water a clear way to leave your property. This may require patience while water recedes.
- Be ready. Make plans to ensure your family's safety, just as if you were preparing for a hurricane evacuation.

Ways to Protect Your Personal Property

- Make a complete inventory of your personal property so you have proof of ownership.
- Photographs, videos and inventory forms from your insurance company are very helpful.

It's high time we talk about high tide.

With so much shoreline, it's important to recognize the impact tides can have on us. Certainly, abnormal tides and storm surges can cause flooding, but flooding can still occur if the moon and the tide align with a storm passing offshore.

It is always a good idea to watch the tidal reports, low and high.

A word about insurance.

First, check your homeowner's insurance. If you have basic homeowner's insurance, flooding is not covered. But we're lucky here in Hampton Roads. Our cities participate in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program that allows residents like you to purchase federally-backed flood insurance. And, if you live in certain floodplain areas, you're required to carry flood insurance.

Of course, you may want flood insurance even if it's not required.

For more information, go to www.fema.gov.

Hampton Roads cities are doing their part.

Hope for the best and prepare for the worst, right? That's why area cities are working hard to keep you and your neighbors healthy and safe.

- Hampton Roads is improving infrastructures and tightening building requirements to meet floodplain and FEMA requirements.
- Localities are investigating long-term and short-term techniques to mitigate coastal flooding.
- Partners in understanding the region's challenges and finding viable solutions are:
 - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 - Virginia Institute of Marine Science
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

You can do your part as well.

When you protect your home, you also protect our watershed. These small activities can have a big impact:

- Keep debris off of your driveway, patios and roadways. When you allow clippings, leaves and trash into the storm drains, the system gets clogged and water flow is reduced. Make sure only rain goes down the storm drains!
- Put trash where it belongs! And don't forget recycling.
- Use natural landscaping techniques and materials where possible to improve water flow and absorption. For more information, contact the Master Gardeners in your city.

You can be the difference between water moving and water standing on your property.

Keep a weather eye.

If stormy weather is predicted, stay tuned and stay informed so you can make knowledgeable preparations. Local TV stations, radio stations and Internet sites will carry all the latest news to keep you prepared.