



FEMA

NFIP MAP & ZONE GRANDFATHER RULES

What is the Grandfather Rule?

A community will occasionally make structural improvements (dams, levees, etc.) to reduce the potential effects of flooding; experience new development aggravating the flooding situation, thereby expanding the floodplain; revise geographical boundaries resulting in the designation of additional flood hazard areas; or provide information to better delineate the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) and/or flood insurance risk zones. When these situations occur, the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) is revised and republished.

The implementation of a new FIRM raises the question-- HOW DOES THE NEW MAP AFFECT FLOOD INSURANCE RATES?

To recognize policyholders **who have remained loyal customers of the NFIP** by maintaining continuous coverage and/or **who have built in compliance with the FIRM**, the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration has "Grandfather rules" to allow such policyholders to benefit in the rating for that building.

Pre-FIRM (construction prior to the date of the community's initial FIRM)

1. If a policy was obtained prior to the effective date of a map change, the policyholder is eligible to maintain the prior zone and base flood elevation as long as continuous coverage is maintained. The policy can be assigned to a new owner at the option of the policyholder.
2. If a building is Pre-FIRM and a policy was not obtained prior to the effective date of a map change, the applicant is eligible to receive the Pre-FIRM (subsidized) rates based on the new zone rather than the actuarial (elevation based) rates.

Post-FIRM (construction on or after the date of the community's initial FIRM)

1. If a policy was obtained prior to the effective date of a map change, the policyholder is eligible to maintain the prior zone and base flood elevation as long as continuous coverage is maintained. The policy can be assigned to a new owner at the option of the policyholder.
2. If a building was constructed in compliance with a specific FIRM, the owner is always eligible to obtain a policy using the zone and base flood elevation from that FIRM, provided that proof (refer to the Flood Insurance Manual, Rating section for acceptable documentation) is submitted to the insurance company. Continuous coverage is not required.

Preferred Risk Policies

1. Buildings written on Preferred Risk Policies are required to be located in zones B, C, or X on the FIRM in effect on the date of application and on the date of each subsequent renewal.
2. A building, which becomes ineligible for a Preferred Risk Policy due to a map change to a special flood hazard area, can be rewritten on a standard rated policy using zones B, C, or X.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, REFER TO THE FLOOD INSURANCE MANUAL, RATE PAGE 21
Go to <http://www.fema.gov/nfip/manual.shtm>**

For more information about the
NFIP and flood insurance, call
1-800-427-4661,
or contact your
insurance company or agent.

For an agent referral, call
1-888-435-6637
TDD 1-800-427-5593
<http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip>
<http://www.floodsmart.gov>



National Flood Insurance Program

How the NFIP Works



FEMA

Emergency Program of the NFIP

- 1. Community applies for participation** in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) either (a) as a result of interest in eligibility for flood insurance, or (b) as a result of receiving notification from FEMA that it contains one or more Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs). Application includes adopted resolutions or ordinances to minimally regulate new construction in SFHAs.
- 2. FEMA authorizes the sale of flood insurance in the community** up to the Emergency Program limits. FEMA assesses the community's degree of flood risk and development potential, and if appropriate...
- 3. Arranges for a study of the community** to determine base flood elevations and flood risk zones. Consultation with the community occurs at the start of and during the study. Communities with minimal flood risk are converted to the Regular Program (next page) without a study.
- 4. FEMA provides the studied community with a Flood Insurance Rate Map** delineating base flood elevations and flood risk zones. The community is given 6 months to adopt base flood elevations in its local zoning and building code ordinances, and to meet other requirements.
- 5. Community adopts more stringent ordinances,** and FEMA converts the community to the NFIP's Regular Program.

Note: Conversions generally occur within 6 months.

Emergency Program Flood Insurance Coverages

Building Coverage

Single Family	\$ 35,000
2-4 Family	\$ 35,000
Other Residential	\$100,000
Non-Residential/Small Business	\$100,000

Contents Coverage

Residential	\$ 10,000
Non-Residential/Small Business	\$100,000

Regular Program of the NFIP

- 1. FEMA authorizes the sale of additional flood insurance** in the community up to the Regular Program limits.
- 2. Community implements** adopted floodplain management measures.
- 3. FEMA arranges for periodic community assistance visits** with local officials to provide technical assistance regarding complying with NFIP floodplain management requirements.
- 4. Local officials may request flood map updates** as needed. FEMA evaluates requests, encourages cost-sharing, and issues revised maps as priorities dictate.

Regular Program Flood Insurance Coverages

	Basic Insurance Limits	Additional Insurance Limits	Total Insurance Available
Building Coverage			
Single Family	\$ 50,000 /	\$200,000	\$250,000
2-4 Family	\$ 50,000 /	\$200,000	\$250,000
Other Residential	\$150,000 /	\$100,000	\$250,000
Non-Residential/Small Business	\$150,000 /	\$350,000	\$500,000
Contents Coverage			
Residential	\$ 20,000 /	\$ 80,000	\$100,000
Non-Residential/Small Business	\$130,000 /	\$370,000	\$500,000

Notes: The purchase of flood insurance is mandatory as a condition of receipt of federal or federally-related financial assistance for acquisition and/or construction of buildings in SFHAs of any participating community. Those communities notified as flood-prone which do not apply for participation in the NFIP within 1 year of notification are ineligible for federal or federally-related financial assistance for acquisition, construction, or reconstruction of insurable buildings in the SFHA. Conventional loans for these purposes are available in the SFHA of nonparticipating communities at the lender's discretion.

NFIP: National Flood Insurance Program
 SFHA: Special Flood Hazard Area
 FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency



This document was prepared by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to help you understand your flood insurance policy. It provides general information about deductibles, what is and is not covered by flood insurance, and how items are valued at time of loss.

This document is based on the Standard Flood Insurance Policy Dwelling Form, which is used to insure one to four family residential buildings and single family dwelling units in a condominium building. There are two other policy forms:

- The General Property Form is used to insure five or more family residential buildings and non-residential buildings.
- The Residential Condominium Building Association Policy Form is used to insure residential condominium association buildings.

While the three forms are similar in many ways, there are differences as well. For example, the General Property Form does not provide coverage for contents in any building other than the insured building, and the Residential Condominium Building Association Policy Form contains a coinsurance clause, which provides for a pro rata reduction in the building claim payment if the building is not insured to 80 percent of its replacement value.

Two Types of Flood Insurance Coverage

The NFIP's Dwelling Form offers coverage for: 1. Building Property, up to \$250,000, and 2. Personal Property (Contents), up to \$100,000. The NFIP encourages people to purchase both types of coverage. Your mortgage company can require that you purchase a certain amount of flood insurance coverage.

For information about your specific limits of coverage and deductibles, refer to the Declarations Page in your flood insurance policy. It's also a good idea to review your policy with your insurance agent or company representative.

What is a Flood?

Flood insurance covers direct physical loss caused by "flood." In simple terms, a flood is an excess of water on land that is normally dry. Here's the official definition used by the National Flood Insurance Program.

A flood is "A general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of two or more acres of normally dry land area or of two or more properties (at least one of which is your property) from:

- Overflow of inland or tidal waters;
- Unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source;
- Mudflow*; or
- Collapse or subsidence of land along the shore of a lake or similar body of water as a result of erosion or undermining caused by waves or currents of water exceeding anticipated cyclical levels that result in a flood as defined above."

*Mudflow is defined as "A river of liquid and flowing mud on the surfaces of normally dry land areas, as when earth is carried by a current of water..."

Three Important Facts About Your Flood Policy

A Standard Flood Insurance Policy is a single-peril (flood) policy that pays for direct physical damage to your insured property up to the replacement cost or Actual Cash Value (ACV) (See "How Flood Damages Are Valued") of the actual damages or the policy limit of liability, whichever is less.

- 1. Contents coverage must be purchased separately.**
- 2. It is not a valued policy.** A valued policy pays the limit of liability in the event of a total loss. For example: Your home is totally destroyed by a fire and it costs \$150,000 to rebuild. If your homeowners insurance policy is a valued policy with a \$200,000 limit of liability on the building, you would receive \$200,000. Flood insurance pays just the replacement cost or ACV of actual damages, up to the policy limit.
- 3. It is not a guaranteed replacement cost policy.** A guaranteed replacement cost policy pays the cost to rebuild your home regardless of the limit of liability. For example: Your home is totally destroyed by a fire and it costs \$200,000 to rebuild. If your homeowners insurance policy is a guaranteed replacement cost policy with a \$150,000 limit of liability on the building, you would receive \$200,000. Flood insurance does not pay more than the policy limit.

Choosing Deductibles

Choosing the amount of your deductibles is an important decision. As with car or homeowners insurance, choosing a higher deductible will lower the premium you pay, but will also reduce your claim payment.

You can normally choose different deductibles for Building Property and Personal Property coverage. The deductibles will apply separately to Building Property and Personal Property claims. Your mortgage company can require that your deductible is no more than a certain amount.

Review the Declarations Page in your flood insurance policy for amounts of coverage and deductibles. Talk with your insurance agent, company representative, or lender about raising or lowering deductibles.

Reminder: Keep Your Receipts

While you are not expected to keep receipts for every household item and article of clothing, do try to keep receipts for electronic equipment, wall-to-wall carpeting, major appliances, and other higher cost items. Your adjuster will be able to process your claim more quickly when you can prove how much items cost at the time of purchase.

What is Covered by Flood Insurance – and What's Not

Generally, physical damage to your building or personal property "directly" caused by a flood is covered by your flood insurance policy. For example, damages caused by a sewer backup are covered if the backup is a direct result of flooding. However, if the backup is caused by some other problem, the damages are not covered.

The following charts provide general guidance on items covered and not covered by flood insurance. Refer to your policy for the complete list.

General Guidance on Flood Insurance Coverage

What is insured under Building Property coverage

- The insured building and its foundation.
- The electrical and plumbing systems.
- Central air conditioning equipment, furnaces, and water heaters.
- Refrigerators, cooking stoves, and built-in appliances such as dishwashers.
- Permanently installed carpeting over an unfinished floor.
- Permanently installed paneling, wallboard, bookcases, and cabinets.
- Window blinds.
- Detached garages (up to 10 percent of Building Property coverage). Detached buildings (other than garages) require a separate Building Property policy.
- Debris removal.

What is insured under Personal Property coverage

- Personal belongings such as clothing, furniture, and electronic equipment.
- Curtains.
- Portable and window air conditioners.
- Portable microwave ovens and portable dishwashers.

- Carpets not included in building coverage (see above).
- Clothes washers and dryers.
- Food freezers and the food in them.
- Certain valuable items such as original artwork and furs (up to \$2,500).

What is not insured by either Building Property or Personal Property coverage

- Damage caused by moisture, mildew, or mold that could have been avoided by the property owner.
- Currency, precious metals, and valuable papers such as stock certificates.
- Property and belongings outside of a building such as trees, plants, wells, septic systems, walks, decks, patios, fences, seawalls, hot tubs, and swimming pools.
- Living expenses such as temporary housing.
- Financial losses caused by business interruption or loss of use of insured property.
- Most self-propelled vehicles such as cars, including their parts (see Section IV.5 in your policy).

General Guidance on Flood Insurance Coverage Limitations In Areas Below the Lowest Elevated Floor and Basements

Flood insurance coverage is limited in areas below the lowest elevated floor (including crawlspaces) depending on the flood zone and date of construction (refer to Part III, Section A.8 in your policy) and in basements regardless of zone, or date of construction. As illustrated below, these areas include **1. basements**, **2. crawlspaces** under an elevated building, **3. enclosed areas** beneath buildings elevated on full story foundation walls that are sometimes referred to as "walkout basements," and **4. enclosed areas** under other types of elevated buildings.

What is insured under Building Property coverage

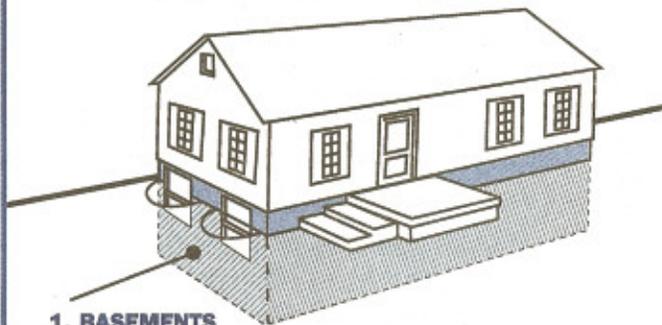
- Foundation walls, anchorage systems, and staircases attached to the building.
- Central air conditioners.
- Cisterns and the water in them.
- Drywall for walls and ceilings (in basements only).
- Nonflammable insulation (in basements only).
- Electrical outlets, switches, and circuit breaker boxes.
- Fuel tanks and the fuel in them, solar energy equipment, well water tanks and pumps.
- Furnaces, hot water heaters, heat pumps, and sump pumps.

What is insured under Personal Property coverage

- Washers and dryers.
- Food freezers and the food in them (but not refrigerators).
- Portable and window air conditioners.

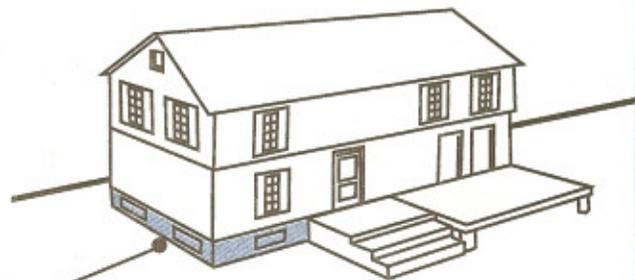
What is not insured by either Building Property or Personal Property coverage

- Paneling, bookcases, and window treatments such as curtains and blinds.
- Carpeting, area carpets, and other floor coverings such as tile.
- Drywall for walls and ceilings (below lowest elevated floor).
- Walls and ceilings not made of drywall.
- Most personal property such as clothing, electronic equipment, kitchen supplies, and furniture.



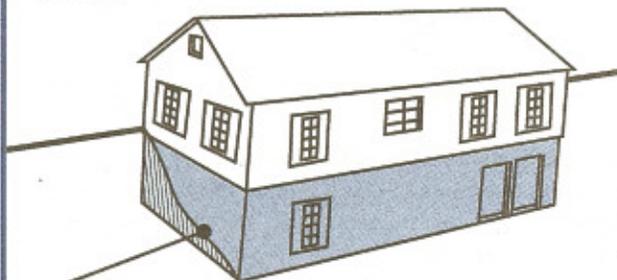
1. BASEMENTS

Coverage limitations apply to "basements," which are any area of the building, including a sunken room or sunken portion of a room, having its floor below ground level on all sides.



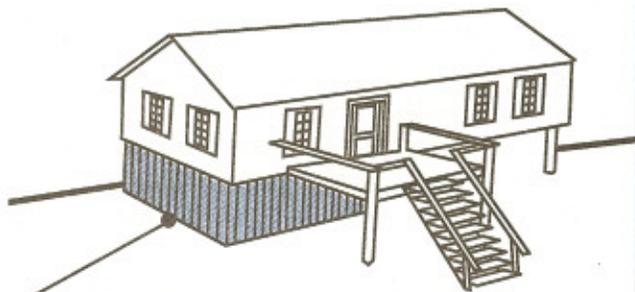
2. CRAWLSPACE

When a building is elevated on foundation walls, coverage limitations apply to the "crawlspace" below.



3. ELEVATED BUILDING ON FULL STORY FOUNDATION WALLS

Coverage limitations apply to the enclosed areas (lower floor) even when a building is constructed with what is sometimes called a "walkout basement."



4. ELEVATED BUILDING WITH ENCLOSURE

Coverage limitations apply to "enclosed areas" at ground level under an "elevated building." An elevated building allows water to flow freely under the living quarters, thus putting less strain on the building in the event of flooding. An "enclosure" is the area below the lowest elevated floor that is fully shut in by rigid walls.

How Flood Damages Are Valued

The value of flood damage in the Dwelling Form is based on either Replacement Cost Value (RCV) or Actual Cash Value (ACV).

Replacement Cost Value (RCV)

Replacement Cost Value (RCV) is the cost to replace that part of a building that is damaged (without depreciation). To be eligible, three conditions must be met:

1. The building must be a single-family dwelling, and
2. Be your principal residence, meaning you live there at least 80 percent of the year, and
3. Your building coverage is at least 80 percent of the full replacement cost of the building, or is the maximum available for the property under the NFIP.

Actual Cash Value (ACV)

Actual Cash Value (ACV) is Replacement Cost Value at the time of loss, less the value of its physical depreciation.

Some building items such as carpeting are always adjusted on an ACV basis. For example, wall-to-wall carpeting could lose between 10–14 percent of its value each year, depending on the quality of the carpeting. This depreciation would be factored in the adjustment.

Personal property is always valued at ACV.

Special Considerations for Multiple Claims

Property owners of "severe repetitive loss properties" may be eligible for a FEMA mitigation grant for property improvements that reduce the likelihood of future flood damages. Property owners who refuse the grant money could be required to pay increased flood insurance premiums.

A property is defined as a "severe repetitive loss property" when it meets one of these conditions:

1. Four or more separate flood claim payments have been made and each claim payment exceeds \$5,000, or
2. At least two flood claim payments have been made and the cumulative payments exceed the value of the property.

A final note

This document provides general information about flood insurance coverage. However, please be aware that your Standard Flood Insurance Policy, your application, and any endorsements, including the Declarations Page, make up your official contract of insurance. Any differences between this information and your policy will be resolved in favor of your policy. If you have questions, call your insurance agent or company representative.

WHAT IS INCREASED COST OF COMPLIANCE (ICC) COVERAGE?

Most NFIP policies include ICC coverage, which applies when flood damages are severe. ICC coverage provides up to \$30,000 of the cost to elevate, demolish, or relocate your home. If your community declares your home "substantially damaged" or "repetitively damaged" by a flood, it will require you to bring your home up to current community standards.

The total amount of your building claim and ICC claim cannot exceed the maximum limit for Building Property coverage (\$250,000 for a single-family home). Having an ICC claim does not affect a Personal Property claim (up to \$100,000), which is paid separately.

Details about eligibility are in Part III, Section D of your policy.

Congress created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in 1968 to reduce future flood damage through floodplain management, and to provide people with flood insurance through individual agents and insurance companies. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) manages the NFIP. As required by Congress, this document was prepared by the NFIP to help flood insurance policyholders understand their policy.



FEMA