

# Tarring Flood Action Group



Making your home more resilient to flooding

Flood Risk at Home series - Booklet 2  
[www.tarringfloodactiongroup.org](http://www.tarringfloodactiongroup.org)

**STAY  
SAFE!**

**If you are in  
immediate danger**

**CALL 999**

## **My property is at risk – How can I proactively protect my property?**

If you live in a flood risk area – and the Tarring Conservation Area, including the High Street, is a flood risk area - then there are a number of ways in which you can reduce the risk of incurring damage to your property.

Tarring Flood Action Group (TFAG) has introduced several initiatives to reduce the risk of flooding and continues to work with a number of agencies to that end. However, given the nature of our built-up environment and the consequences of Climate Change, it is likely that risk to property from flash floodwater will be increasing and ever-present.

A recent survey carried out on behalf of TFAG by Project Centre has drawn up a map of the areas that are most at risk. Contact us at [tarringfloodgroup@outlook.com](mailto:tarringfloodgroup@outlook.com) if you would like a digital copy.

Local Authorities do not routinely provide flood protection for private or commercial properties, and it remains the responsibility of the property owner to take appropriate action to protect their property from flooding. This booklet is one of two that have been produced by TFAG to help residents reduce their flood risk. Contact us at [tarringfloodgroup@outlook.com](mailto:tarringfloodgroup@outlook.com) if you would like a digital copy of Booklet 1- **Flood risk at home Protect your property in the event of a flood.**

There are a number of ways that you can reduce the flood risk to your property, at the same time making it more attractive and more pleasant to live in.

**Restore soft landscaping.** Do you have any hard landscaped areas in your garden? Is it impermeable? (i.e. concrete or slabs, not gravel, for example). Consider replacing these areas with ***soft landscaping***, the process of re-designing the landscape with elements that do not involve construction or the use of impermeable materials. These elements include trees, shrubs, and flowers, as well as container gardens, potted plants, and hanging baskets. Changing the soft elements of the landscape can be an easy way to change the entire look of the outside of the home, especially when using methods such as selecting different annual and perennial flowers for the gardens and flower beds.



**Create a Rain Garden.** In its simplest form, a rain garden is a shallow depression, with absorbent, yet free-draining soil and planted with vegetation that can withstand occasional temporary flooding. Rain gardens come in all shapes and sizes, from large roadside plantings to the smallest garden plots. They are a valuable tool in helping contain occasional flooding from heavy rainfall. All you need to know can be found at the excellent website <https://raingardens.info/> where you can download the very useful, free **UK Rainwater Guide**. Other helpful websites include <https://thewatershed.org/create-a-mini-raingarden/> but there is a host of others. Just 'Google' rainwater gardens



**Water Butts** are a great way to store rainwater, which in turn reduces flood risk, saves using tap water, and is better for your plants and vegetables. And it reduces your water bill! If you need help or advice, contact TFAG on [tarringfloodgroup@outlook.com](mailto:tarringfloodgroup@outlook.com) and ask us about our **Adopt-a-water-butt** scheme!



**When you plant a tree**, you are helping our planet in so many ways. Trees soak up rainwater and provide shelter and food for wildlife such as birds, squirrels, and bugs. All plants absorb carbon dioxide during photosynthesis and produce oxygen, but in trees, this process happens on a much large scale. Fight climate change! Plant a tree!



**Permeable Paving** is a method of paving vehicle and pedestrian pathways to enable infiltration of stormwater runoff. Permeable pavement surfaces typically include pervious concrete, porous asphalt, paving stones and interlocking pavers. Unlike traditional impervious paving materials, permeable paving systems allow stormwater to percolate and infiltrate through the pavement and into the aggregate layers and/or soil below. In addition to reducing surface runoff, permeable paving systems can trap suspended solids, thereby filtering pollutants from stormwater. The goal is to control stormwater at the source, reduce runoff and improve water quality by filtering pollutants in the subsurface layers

**Plant a Green Roof.** A green roof or living roof is a roof of a building (or bus shelter!) that is partially or completely covered with vegetation and a growing medium, planted over a waterproofing membrane. It may also include additional layers such as a root barrier and drainage and irrigation systems. Container gardens on roofs, where plants are maintained in pots, are not generally considered to be true green roofs, although this is open to debate. Rooftop ponds are another form of green roofs which are used to treat greywater. Vegetation, soil, drainage layer, roof barrier and irrigation system constitute a green roof.



**Install a Soakaway.** A traditional soakaway is simply a hole that is dug in the ground and is filled with coarse stone and rubble that acts as a temporary reservoir that allows channeled or surface water to filter through it. However, the use of rubble is now considered 'old school', and modern soakaways usually incorporate plastic 'soakaway crates' that allow the water to percolate more effectively. But not any old hole! You will need to ensure that the surrounding soil is able to let water percolate through – i.e. certainly not clay! A percolation



test of your soil is advisable. And it must be at least 5m from the building and 2.5m from any neighbouring fence. Take a look at the commercial website <https://job-prices.co.uk/soakaway-guide/> for a more in-depth description of what is involved.

**Adopt-a-Drain** Why not join the 70+TFAG Adopt-a-Drain volunteers who help keep Tarring dry?

Clear the top of the drain inlet of any debris, litter, leaves etc. as and when required.

Where possible clear the area 1 metre either side of the drain inlet. Ensure any leaf debris is either,

a) removed, or

b) raked onto a nearby council grass verge or flowerbed so it can rot down naturally.

If neither of the previous are an option, then ensure the debris is downstream to prevent it being washed back to block the drain again.

Litter should be placed in a bin.

Visit our website for more details.







[www.tarringfloodactiongroup.org](http://www.tarringfloodactiongroup.org)

*"We hope that this guideline note has been useful in getting you to think about how you can make your property more resilient to the pluvial flooding that is the inevitable result of Climate Change.*

*Please also make sure that you have the appropriate flood defence devices available to hand, or already fitted, so that you can protect yourself, your family and your belongings!"*

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