

Flood Insurance Protects Your Family's Future



KEY FACTS EVERY HOMEOWNER SHOULD KNOW

- 1** Only flood insurance covers damage from floods; most homeowners policies offer little or no protection.
- 2** Flooding can happen anywhere. In 2008, approximately 25 percent of all flood damage occurred in moderate- to low-risk areas.
- 3** A few inches of water can cost tens of thousands of dollars. The average cost of a flood claim is more than \$20,000.
- 4** Policies can be surprisingly affordable. The average flood-insurance premium is around \$500 per year, and the cost can be as low as \$119 a year in a moderate- or low-risk area.
- 5** Don't wait until the waters rise. Most flood-insurance policies take 30 days to go into effect.

Janet and Norman Taylor's Atlanta-area home is a place of love and loss and lessons learned. They loved every inch of the place and its natural setting when they bought it from Janet's parents a decade ago. But they nearly lost it in 2004 when torrential rains

were able to rebuild. Determined to protect their home from future risks, they purchased flood insurance from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), administered by FEMA. The policy paid off when heavy rains struck the area once again in September 2009.

“It didn't matter that my parents had lived here for 30 years and never flooded, or that we weren't in a floodplain. It was a lesson I didn't want to learn again.”

Janet Taylor, homeowner

brought four feet of filthy water inside, a situation that became all the more devastating when they learned that their homeowners policy would not pay for the damage.

It was, as Norman remembers, “the biggest shock of our lives.”

Fortunately, because of Norman's construction skills and an outpouring of donated labor from friends, they

Just four weeks after witnessing a deluge of water and mud that rose up past their inside windowsills, they had the funds to pay for rebuilding

“The big lesson from the first flood is that it can happen wherever you live, and we really took it to heart,” Janet says.

Talk to your agent about flood insurance, and visit FloodSmart.gov to learn more.



Visit FloodSmart.gov to read the Taylors' and other homeowners' flood stories, and to learn more about flooding risks and ways to secure affordable flood insurance.