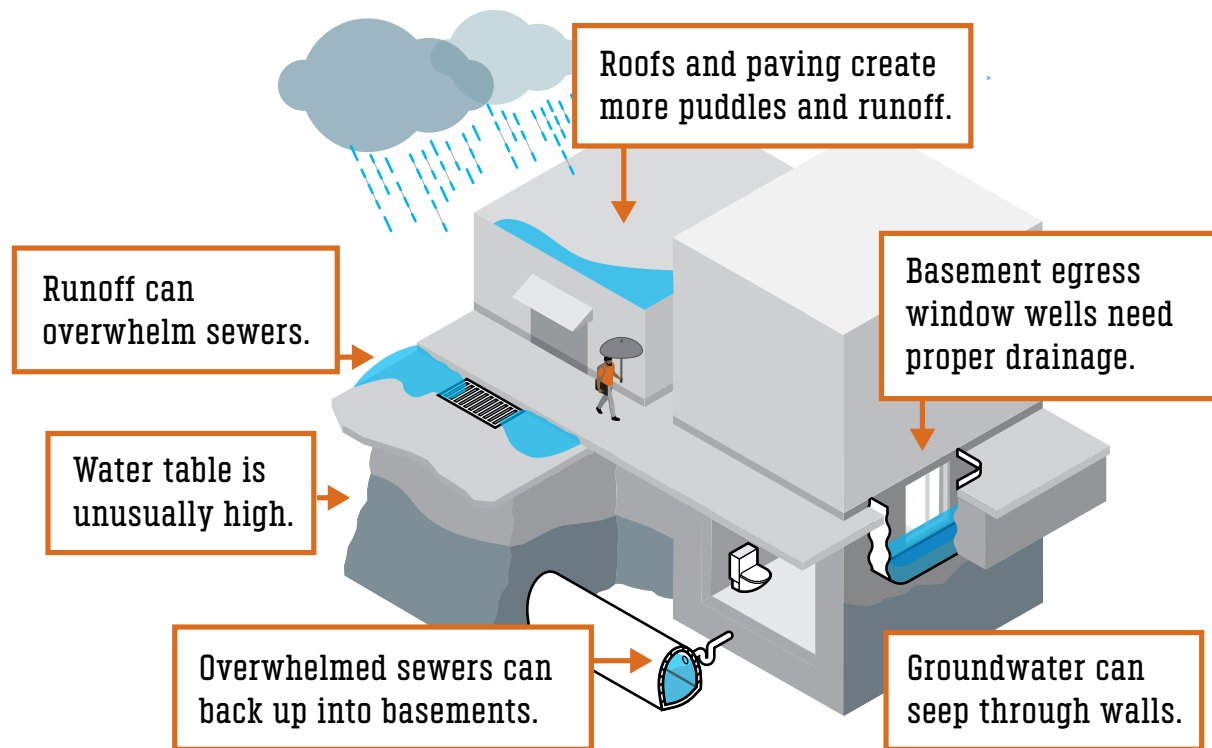


# Why Germantown Floods

Some low-lying areas of the neighborhood flood because homes and streets were built over old creeks and sewers.

This flooding is called **infrastructure flooding** or **urban flash flooding**. During large storms, underground sewers quickly become overwhelmed. Water flows out of the sewers and into streets and properties. Floodwater can backup out of storm drains, manholes, and plumbing fixtures, such as toilets or drains in basements.



## Safety

This flooding can be dangerous. It occurs quickly, has fast moving water, and can look shallow when it may be feet deep.

- **Never drive through flooded streets.**
- **Evacuate if necessary.**
- **Avoid flooded areas.**



## Climate Change

A changing climate means **more frequent** and **more severe storms**.

Take action now:  
Protect your property.



V2.1.12/15/20

# Be prepared before flooding occurs.

▶ **See if PWD's Basement Protection Program could help:**

Free plumbing upgrades can prevent water backing up through basement drains/toilets: [phillyh2o.info/backflow-app](https://phillyh2o.info/backflow-app)

▶ **Avoid basement storage** for valuable possessions such as photo albums, artwork or documents.

▶ If you experienced flooding at your property before: **flood insurance** is strongly recommended. Insurance costs and more at: [www.floodsmart.gov](https://www.floodsmart.gov)



**Get emergency text and email alerts** from Ready Philadelphia.

Sign up at: [www.phila.gov/ready](https://www.phila.gov/ready)

## If your home floods:

**First, stay safe.** If you can safely access your circuit breaker, turn off the electricity to the affected area. **Never stand in water unless you know the electricity is off!**

**Don't delay.** Call the Philadelphia Water Department at **(215) 685-6300** to report a water emergency. Our inspectors need to visit while water is still there.

## Report flooding.

Telling us about what happened helps the City plan better solutions to flooding issues.

▶ **On your property:** Fill out the Flood Report Survey [water.phila.gov/flood-survey](https://water.phila.gov/flood-survey)

▶ **In the community:** Snap photos and submit through this form: [phillyh2o.info/flooding-photos](https://phillyh2o.info/flooding-photos)



## More information:



***A Guide to Flooding in Philadelphia***

Everything you need to know about flooding in the city: [phillyh2o.info/flood-guide](https://phillyh2o.info/flood-guide)

▶ **Connect with your local Registered Community Organization (RCO)**

Find the nearest one at: [openmaps.phila.gov](https://openmaps.phila.gov)

▶ **See the City's flood preparedness website.** [phillyh2o.info/services-flooding](https://phillyh2o.info/services-flooding)