



6 WAYS TO RETROFIT YOUR FLOODPRONE HOME

What Is Retrofitting?

Retrofitting is making changes to an existing structure to protect it from flooding or other hazards, such as earthquakes or high winds. It is action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property.

Many homes were built when little was known about where and how often floods and other hazardous events would occur and how the homes should be constructed and protected.

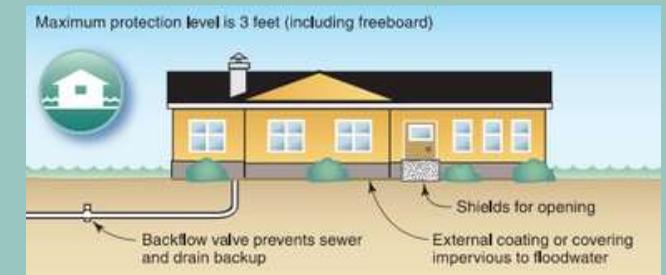
As a result, retrofitting has become a necessary and important tool in hazard mitigation.

It is important to note that any retrofitting project that you undertake must meet the legal requirements of your community, including floodplain management ordinances that the community adopted to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. By enforcing these ordinances, the community helps reduce future flood damages.



1. Dry Floodproofing

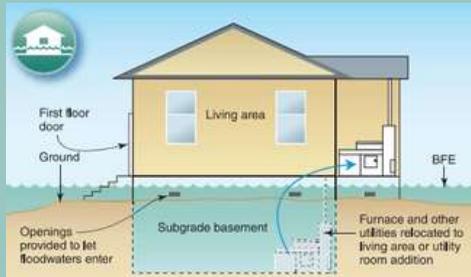
Dry flood proofing is sealing the exterior of your home to prevent floodwaters from entering. A design professional, such as a structural engineer, will evaluate the condition, stability, and strength of the existing wall to verify whether they can withstand the pressure from flood waters at the Design Flood Elevation (DFE). A licensed general contractor will apply waterproof sealants and membranes, installing backflow valves in sewer and water lines and if necessary, brace or modify walls so they can withstand the pressure from floodwaters at the DFE.



2. Wet Floodproofing

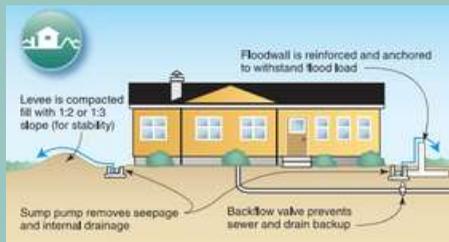
Wet floodproofing is making portions of your home resistant to flood damage and allowing water to enter during a flood. A design professional will evaluate the structure and design any necessary replacements of vulnerable structural materials and relocated utility systems.

A licensed general contractor will replace materials and utilities that are below the DFE with flood damage resistant materials, raise the utilities, and install openings that allow the entry and exit of flood waters in order to meet local ordinance requirements.



3. Barrier Systems

Barrier systems are floodwalls or levees that are constructed around your home to restrain floodwaters. A design professional will assess the adequacy of the soils, prepare engineering design to ensure that the barrier system will be structurally stable under the expected flood loads and that the barrier system will be able to resist erosion, scour, and seepage. The licensed general contractor will install the barrier system based on the design professional's plan.



4.Elevation

Elevation means raising your home so that the lowest floor or lowest horizontal member is at or above the flood level that is regulated by the community. A design professional will evaluate the condition, stability, and strength of the home's existing foundation to determine whether it can support the increased load of the elevated home, including any wind and seismic loads or they will design a new foundation system for the home. A license general contractor disconnects the utilities from the home, raises the height of the foundation and utilities to meet the elevation required by the community's ordinance, and reconnects the utilities.



5. Mitigation Reconstruction

Mitigation reconstruction consists of removing the home and either rebuilding on the same property in accordance with the community's ordinance requirements or buying and building a home elsewhere. A design professional will design a new home, foundation, new utility systems, and any site improvements that may be needed. A demolition contractor will disconnect and cap utility lines, remove the existing home in its entirety, and restore the site. A licensed general contractor will build a new home on the restored or new site based on the design professional's plan and the community's ordinance requirements.

6. Relocation

Relocation means moving your existing home to higher ground where it will reduce the exposure to flooding. A design professional will design a new home, foundation, new utility systems, and any site improvements that may be needed. A home moving contractor will jack the home from the existing foundation move it to the new location and place the home on the new foundation. A licensed general contractor will prepare the new site including grading, foundation construction, and utilities. The general contractor will also demo the foundation and restore the site at the previous location of the home.

**Want To Learn More
About Retrofitting Your Floodprone Home?**

Visit the following websites:

Homeowner's Guide to Retrofitting

https://agents.floodsmart.gov/sites/default/files/fema_nfip-homeowners-guide-retrofitting-2014.pdf

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program

<https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance>

**Columbia County Stormwater Compliance
630 Ronald Reagan Drive; Bldg. A
Evans, GA 30809
706-447-7645**