

If you live in an area that is at risk of flooding, there are things you can do to reduce the damage that a flood can do to your home. The illustration below shows some examples.

## Electrical sockets

Raising electrical sockets, fuse boxes and associated wiring to at least 1.5 metres above ground floor level will limit the risk of them being damaged by water during a flood. You may be able to use them again once the water has receded and the electricity supply is restored. If rewiring, bring cables down the wall from the top to the raised socket so that cabling doesn't get affected. Controls and ventilation systems should also be well above floor level.

## TV and hi-fi

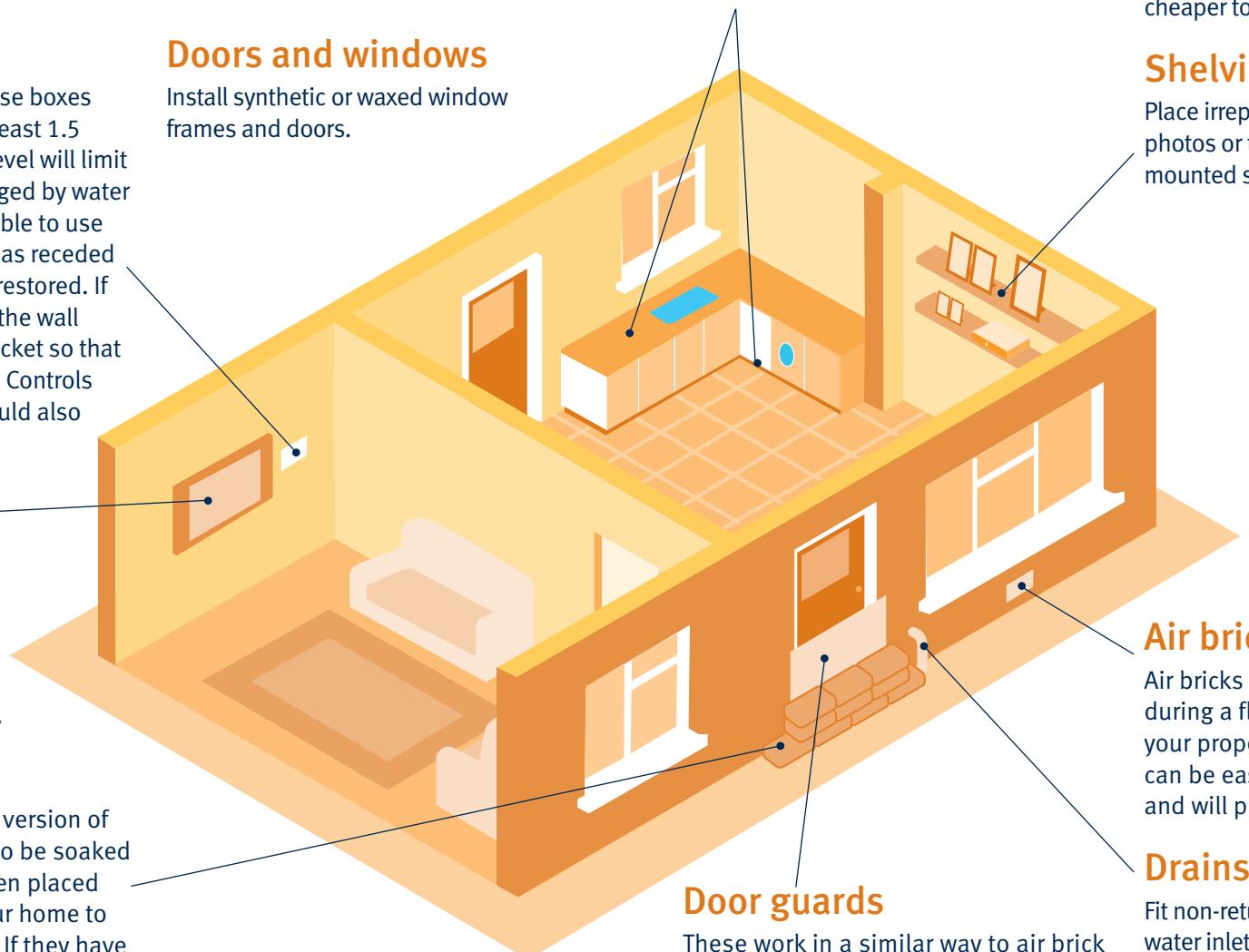
Mount your TV or hi-fi and speakers on the wall.

## Walls

Use lime-based plaster instead of gypsum on walls.

## Flood sacks

These are a lighter, modern version of sandbags. The sacks need to be soaked in water so they expand, then placed around the entrances to your home to protect against flood water. If they have not been in contact with contaminated water, they can be left to dry and shrink and can be reused. They take up little storage and can be cost-effective.



## Kitchen units and appliances

Fit stainless steel, plastic or solid wood kitchen units rather than chipboard. White goods such as fridges should be raised on plinths.

## Flooring

Lay ceramic tiles or rugs on your ground floor rather than carpets. Rugs can easily be removed and placed out of reach. Non-carpeted floors can be easier to clean once the water has subsided and are cheaper to replace.

## Shelving

Place irreplaceable items, such as family photos or treasured possessions, on high mounted shelves.

## Door guards

These work in a similar way to air brick covers but on a larger scale. They can be placed across the bottom of your external doors to hold back low levels of water.

## Air brick covers

Air bricks are used for ventilation, but during a flood, they can let water into your property. The covers are airtight, can be easily attached to the air bricks and will prevent water entering.

## Drains and pipes

Fit non-return valves to all drains and water inlet pipes.