



Flooding in a street



Contemporary picture of the flood that struck the [North Sea](#) coast of [Germany](#) and [Denmark](#) in October 1634.

A **flood** is an overflow of water on normally dry ground. This is most commonly due to an overflowing [river](#), a [dam](#) break, snowmelt, or heavy [rainfall](#). Less commonly happening are [tsunamis](#), [storm surge](#).

The most deadly flooding was in 1931 in China and killed between 2,000,000 and 4,000,000 people. The Kerala flood in India was another flood that has destroyed people's houses.

During a flood, people try to move themselves and their most precious belongings to higher ground quickly. The process of leaving homes in search of a safe place is called [flood evacuation](#).

[Bangladesh](#) is the most flood prone area in the world.

Contents

[Pollution of drinking water](#)

[Causes of floods](#)

[Related pages](#)

[Images for kids](#)

Pollution of drinking water



Autumn [Mediterranean](#) flooding in [Alicante, Spain](#),
September of 1997

During a flood there is plenty of water logging and overflow of water, but it is mostly [polluted](#) and not safe to drink. If people drink this dirty water, they may suffer from [diseases](#) such as [typhoid](#) and cholera, hepatitis and other such diseases. People can get ready to survive a flood by filling many [containers](#) with fresh and clean [drinking water](#) and storing other [emergency](#) supplies; like: medicine and food. During flood people try to go to higher sides because the flood water wouldn't reach high areas. Also drains overflow and mix with clean water and people who drink it might fall ill.

Causes of floods

Flooding is usually caused when a volume of water within a water body, such as a [lake](#), overflows outside it. Sometimes if a [dam](#) breaks, it suddenly releases a large amount of water. The result is that some of the water travels to land, and 'floods' the area. Many rivers are in a channel, between river banks. They flood when the strength of the river causes it to flow beyond the banks. This is more common at bends or [meanders](#).

Flood damage can be prevented by moving away from places that flood. However, people have long liked to have their homes and businesses alongside water because water is good for [agriculture](#) and [transport](#) and in other ways. Floods are also caused due to improper management of drains.

[Rainfall](#) is the most common cause. Snow melt is also a cause of flooding. [Tsunamis](#) and Storm Surge are less common ways that floods happen. Coastal Flooding is another common cause of flooding, and this is caused by [low pressure systems or storms](#).

Related pages

- [Flood control](#)

Images for kids



"Regular" flooding in [Venice, Italy](#).



[Jeddah Flood](#), covering King Abdullah Street in [Saudi Arabia](#).



Flooding in a street of [Natal, Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil](#) in April 2013.



[Flash flooding](#) caused by heavy rain falling in a short amount of time.



Flood due to [Cyclone Hudhud](#) in [Visakhapatnam](#)



Aftermath of flooding in Colorado, 2013