

Why your drains back up in a hurricane

- 1 Slope.** Drain lines fall about 1/4 inch per foot so gravity carries water away.
- 2 Trap.** The U-bend under each fixture holds water that blocks sewer gas. A dry floor drain smells: pour in a bucket of water.
- 3 Vent.** The pipe through your roof lets air in so flushing doesn't siphon traps dry.
- 4 Backwater valve.** A one-way flap on the main line that closes when the city sewer backs up. Have a licensed plumber install it; it needs maintenance.
- 5 During a flood.** While the valve is closed, your own water can't leave. Go easy on sinks, washer and toilet.
- 6 Check coverage.** Standard homeowner policies often exclude sewer backup and flood. Ask about a sewer-backup rider.

Go deeper: Survival Prep: Essential Skills

View on Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0DK7MPQ2K>

Sources:

FEMA: Protect your property from flooding - <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/building-science>