

For additional information on flood risks, click [here](#).

(http://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/pages/flooding_flood_risks/defining_flood_risks.jsp)



Heavy Rains

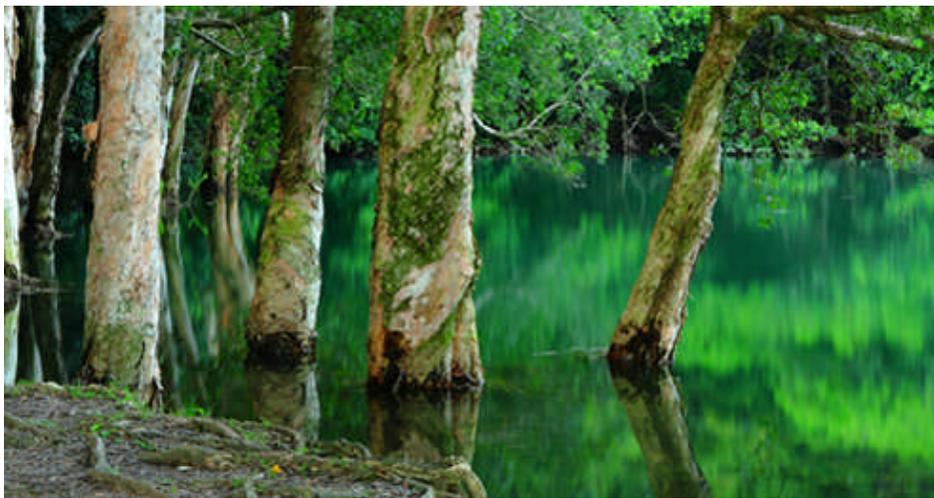
Several areas of the country are at heightened risk for flooding due to heavy rains. This excessive amount of rainfall can happen throughout the year, putting your property at risk.

Storms over the Pacific Ocean bring heavy rains to the western United States between the months of November and April. Cresting rivers, backed-up storm drains or saturated ground can cause significant floods across the region during this time.



La Niña

La Niña is characterized by unusually cold ocean temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific (unlike its brother El Niño, which is characterized by unusually warm ocean temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific). Each La Niña event is unique and can vary in strength, impact and duration. The current La Niña is quite strong and forecasters cannot rule out the possibility that it might last throughout the year.



Spring Thaw

During the spring, frozen land prevents melting snow or rainfall from seeping into the ground. Each cubic foot of compacted snow contains gallons of water and once the snow melts, it can result in the overflow of streams, rivers and lakes. Add spring storms to that and the result is often serious, spring flooding.



Ice Jams

Long cold spells can cause the surface of rivers to freeze, leading to ice jams. When a rise in the water level or a thaw breaks the ice into large chunks, these chunks can become jammed at man-made and natural obstructions, resulting in severe flooding.