

## What is your flood risk?

1. Investigate whether the property floods, and purchase flood insurance if needed.

- Talk to the neighbors: Does the street flood? Did this house flood?
- Ask the landlord/owner about the flooding history. Get the answer in writing before you buy or lease.
- Review past floods and buyouts in the area: <https://arcg.is/0revD4>
- Enter a Harris county address to assess flood risk:  
<http://www.texascoastalatlas.com> (click on "Buyers B-Where")

2. Review FEMA flood maps at <https://msc.fema.gov/portal>

- Compare the elevation of flood plain with the slab elevation of your home
- Avoid buying or leasing a 100-year floodplain.
- Within a 500-year floodplain, home height should be above 500-year floodplain elevation, buying a home with an elevation below the 500-year floodplain.
- A higher risk of storm surge exists in east and southeast Harris County below 25 feet.
- Avoid buying a home under 25 feet of elevation.
- Avoid homes where the slab is even with or just slightly above the crown of the street.
- The slab should be 2 feet or more above the crown of the street.
- Keep in mind, there is always a chance your home may flood. However, these tips should help minimize the risk.

3. Know whether your zip code is an evacuation area.

<http://prepare.readyharris.org/Evacuation-Map>