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Recommendations to Improve Flood Resistance:

Local officials can encourage owners to improve the resistance of older buildings during the course of repairs and improvements even if owners propose improvements or repairs that do not trigger the Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage (SI/DI) requirements. Improving resistance can facilitate rapid clean-up and recovery and reduce repair costs. Whether these applications are applicable to a specific situation depends, in part, on the characteristics of the flood hazard and the building.

- Replace gypsum board or wood paneling below the Before Flood Elevation (BFE) (preferably below the BFE plus one foot or more) with vinyl panels that can be removed to facilitate clean-up and drying before being reinstalled.
- Replace insulation with closed-cell foam insulation that can be cleaned, dried, and replaced.
- Replace flooring and floor finishes with flood damage-resistant materials.
- Relocate mechanical equipment out of basements or other flood-prone spaces and elevate above the BFE.
- Abandon the use of below-grade areas (basements) and fill them in to prevent structural damage.
- Install backflow devices in sewer lines.
- If sufficient warning time is available from official sources, pre-plan actions to move contents from the lower floors to the higher floors when a warning issued.

For important information regarding flood maps, flood insurance, etc., visit the [FEMA](#) website and click on the "Navigation" button.