

**What Prospective Property Owners
Should Know:
Martinsburg's Flood Hazard**

In the City of Martinsburg, flooding and other drainage problems can result after several inches of rain in a short period of time or after several days of continued rain. Over the past 20 years, our community has experienced storms or rainfall events causing flood damage. If you are looking at buying a property, it is a good idea to check out the possible flood hazard before you buy.

Know Your Local Floodplain Management Regulations. Martinsburg regulates construction and development in identified floodplains to ensure buildings are protected from flood damage. Filling and similar projects are prohibited in certain areas. Houses that are considered substantially damaged (i.e., more than 50% of its market value) by fire, flood or other causes must be elevated to above the flood level when they are repaired.

Flood Protection. A building can be protected from most flood hazards, sometimes at relatively low cost. New building and additions can be elevated above the flood levels. Existing buildings can be protected from shallow floodwaters with some simple retrofitting measures.



City of Martinsburg,
West Virginia

232 N. Queen Street
Martinsburg, WV
25401

Phone: 304-264-2131
ext. 266



**Ask Before
You Buy:
Know Your
Flood Risk**





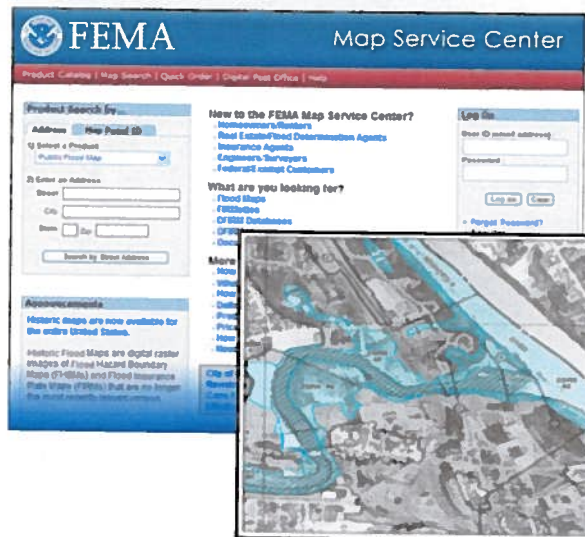
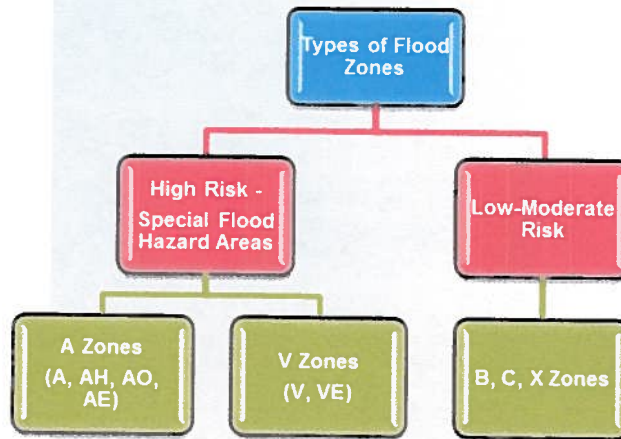
Looking for a new home? Have you checked out whether it has ever flooded or had a drainage problem? Even a shallow flood that is only a few inches deep in your house could cause thousands of dollars in damage, and loss of irreplaceable keepsakes. Deeper floods mean you will have to relocate until repairs are made.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) that show Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs). If your property is located in a Special Flood Hazard Area, it is five times more likely to experience a flood versus a fire, so flood insurance is advisable.

If you need a mortgage that is regulated or insured by the Federal government you will have to buy a flood insurance policy if the building is located in a Special Flood Hazard Area.

Flood Insurance Rate Maps

<http://msc.fema.gov>



You can check on Special Flood Hazard Areas in your neighborhood by looking at the Flood Insurance Rate Maps at FEMA's Map Service Center: <http://msc.fema.gov>. Most city and county government building or planning departments have the FEMA maps, too. Call them and ask if there are any special land use, building, or floodplain management regulations that apply.



To view additional flood hazard maps developed by the University of West Virginia visit: <http://www.mapwv.gov/>