



A guide to flood risk assessments

The purpose of Auckland Council's Flood and Landslide Recovery Assistance Programme is to remove people from homes where there is an intolerable risk to life. This guide describes how we identify homes where the flooding risk creates an intolerable risk to people's lives.

How long will a flood risk assessment take?

The time we take to assess a property depends on how complex the flooding issues are, how many properties we are assessing in the community, and demand for our assessment service. The timeframes below are approximate.

The flood assessment process

We start by doing a desktop assessment. This step takes about four weeks.

An engineer reviews the information you provided in the online Flooding and Landslide Registration Form, and information available in council records. They will decide if more information is needed and if the flood risk level at your property is low enough.

If we find that the overall risk to life from flooding at your property is low enough, we will give your property a Category 1 and write to you to confirm this.

If your property needs more assessment, we look at more detailed information. This step takes 2-8 weeks, or longer if we also need to assess landslide risk.

If this more detailed assessment finds that the overall risk to life at your property is low enough, we will give your property a Category 1.

If we still need more information, we will send an engineer to visit your property. This step takes up to four weeks, or longer if we need to assess both flooding and landslide risk.

We will call you to organise a visit to your property. Our engineer will talk with you and also check to confirm that the information we have is accurate.

When we book site visits, we try to combine property visits in a community. This helps us understand the things that might be affecting flooding in the whole neighbourhood, not just at each house. This means that if you are in a community with a lot of homes affected by flooding, you might have to wait for us to visit your area.

If the on-site visit finds that the overall risk to life at your property is low enough, we will give your property a Category 1.

If your property is high-risk, we then look at whether the risk can be mitigated.

If we find an intolerable risk to life at your property, we will then look at whether feasible changes can be made to your property or in your community to reduce the risk to a tolerable level. We call these changes 'mitigations.' It will take us 12 weeks or longer to assess community level options.

If we find that there are feasible changes you could make to your property to reduce the risk, we will give your property a Category 2P. If we find that there are feasible changes that the council can make in your community, we will give your property a Category 2C. If we find that there are no feasible changes that would reduce the risk to life, we will give your property a Category 3. We will contact you about next steps if your property is a Category 2P, 2C or 3.

Flood risk assessment process

