What to expect when it RAINS

Some standing water is normal and expected after rain. Collecting excess water in local lakes, ponds, swales and streets keeps it away from your home.

Recognize that flood control is a shared responsibility.

Know the agency responsible for managing nearby canals.

Understand YOUR neighborhood drainage limitations. Every neighborhood drains differently.

If you are part of a homeowners association, identify the HOA representative authorized to operate any water control structures.

Check for any structure, storm drain or canal blockages – remove debris and/or report any issues.

Be aware that extreme rain can overwhelm drainage systems and result in temporary flooding.
The South Florida Water Management District operates the regional water management system of canals, levees, water control structures and storage areas. The system connects to local drainage districts and thousands of neighborhood systems. These interconnected systems must work together to achieve maximum drainage of excess rainwater.

1. Neighborhood Canals

Community drainage systems store excess water in local lakes, ponds, swales and streets. Some standing water is expected after heavy rains. Excess water slowly drains to community lakes or ponds through street and yard storm drains. Rainwater then flows through underground pipes to the next link in the flood control chain: the local canals.

2. Local Canals (Secondary)

Local canals are maintained and operated by cities, counties or local drainage districts and include canals, pump stations and storage areas. These canals receive water from neighborhoods and store excess water or move it to the larger-capacity regional flood control system.

3. Regional Canals (Primary)

The regional canal system is designed to move the most water as quickly and safely as possible. Aided by pump stations, these canals channel excess water into storage or to coastal discharge points. In areas not served by the water management system, natural rivers and other waterways serve as drainage outlets.

What can slow THE FLOW?

- Depth of rainfall
- If other neighborhoods are experiencing heavy rains, local and regional canals may not be able to accept all inflows at once. Heavy rainfall in a short period of time may cause local and regional canals to overflow.
- Extent of rainfall
- Intensity of rainfall
- Poorly maintained facilities
- Clogged or damaged facilities can prevent neighborhood water from draining properly.

How excess rainwater flows to your neighborhood after it leaves your home?

Excess pond water is routed to a neighborhood canal via a water control structure. Local and regional canals connect to the regional canal system operated by the South Florida Water Management District. Local canals flow to larger canals that connect to the regional canal system.

From street’s storm drain, water flows into a pond, which feeds into a swale that connects to a community lake. From there, excess water flows into a regional canal.