

Although we have lived in our townhouse for several years, Harvey was the first time we had a flooding challenge. With 53 inches rainfall we weren't the only ones to suffer. Many homes had 2 to 6 feet of water but we only had approx. 3.5 inches of water.

As a result of this, we were determined to reduce the inconvenience and damage to our home, in the event of future extreme flooding and damage. Therefore, we took the following actions:

- We noted that the outside wall had Hardie Plank (A concrete siding) installed over a previous siding and therefore, reasoned, that it should be water tight. While the wall frame was exposed we inspected the space between the wall and the sill plate (The 2 x 4 that the studs sit on to frame the wall) and found small gaps.

We reasoned that if these gaps were filled, the wall should be water tight, therefore we asked our contractor to pour roofing tar between the sill plate and the outside wall in order to close these gaps.

- We also instructed our contractor to caulk the floorboards to provide a secondary layer of protection.
- In the garage, instead of replacing the sheet rock that was damaged by water, we installed aluminum roofing material almost halfway up the lower walls. The material is attractive, but its greatest advantage, in the event of flooding, is that one can remove the sheeting via a few screws.

The exposed walls can then be treated and the sheeting can be reinstalled simply by attaching the screws.

- In order to create a wall to stop water from entering the house through the doors and garage; we have purchased bags that will automatically inflate when exposed to water. We also bought bags filled with dirt and additional plastic sheeting material.