



National Flood Insurance Program

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and Erosion

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is a federal program enabling property owners in participating communities to purchase flood insurance as protection against flood losses.

What the Standard Flood Insurance Policy (SFIP) covers?

The SFIP is *single peril* insurance. This means flood insurance available through the NFIP covers *only* “direct physical loss by or from flood” as defined by the SFIP to the insured building and personal property (contents). Other causes of loss are not eligible for coverage under the SFIP, including when flood is the indirect cause or leads to consequential damage, except for specific instances stated in the SFIP.

How does the NFIP Define Flood?

In simple terms, a “flood” is defined as:

1. A “general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of two or more acres of normally dry land area or of two or properties (one of which is your property) from:
 - a. Overflow of inland or tidal waters,
 - b. Unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source,
 - c. Mudflow
2. Collapse or subsidence of land along the shore of a lake or similar body of water as a result of erosion or undermining caused by waves or currents of water exceeding anticipated cyclical levels that result in a flood as defined in A.1.a above.

Does the SFIP Cover Erosion?

The SFIP does not cover loss of land (See [44 C.F.R. App. A to Part 61, Standard Flood Insurance Policy, ¶¶ IV.6.](#)). The SFIP also excludes damage caused by earth movement even when flood directly causes the earth movement, unless there is evidence of sudden-erosion or undermining from by a specific type of flood causing the earth to move resulting in damage to property. Examples of earth movement which are specifically excluded from the SFIP include land subsidence, sinkholes, destabilization or movement of land that results from accumulation of water in subsurface land area, or gradual erosion. (See [44 C.F.R. App. A to Part 61, Standard Flood Insurance Policy, ¶¶ V.B.6.](#)) The SFIP may provide benefits to cover the cost to replenish soils eroded during the flood, which directly support the foundation of the insured building.