



Have a kit, have a plan

Shelter-in-place:

Shelter-in-place means to stay indoors until you receive instructions to leave. The main reason that emergency response professionals would instruct you to do this would be to keep you and your family safe due to a hazardous material release into the air.

When you are instructed to shelter-in-place, it is because that is the safest place for you, your friends and your family. In addition to staying inside, you'll also want to ensure that hazardous air or vapour doesn't get in. The best location in your home, office or school to shelter-in-place is an interior room that is above ground level. The reason for this is that some chemicals are heavier than air and may seep into basements even if windows are closed. Keep duct tape in your emergency kit to seal cracks and vents to keep external air outside.

Shelter-in-place guidelines:

- » Go indoors immediately and stay there
- » Close all windows and doors
- » Turn off the furnace, air conditioners and exhaust systems
- » Listen to the radio or TV for more information

For more information on Shelter-in-place visit [Know the Risks > Hazardous Material Spills > Shelter-in-place](#).

To read about shelter-in-place in a fictional blog about one survivor's experience with a zombie outbreak, visit [Know the Risks > Disease Outbreaks > Zombie Preparedness on PreparedBC](#).

In it together:

Past events show that when disaster strikes, the most immediate help will likely come from those around you – your neighbours.

Once you're prepared as a family, consider raising the subject with your neighbours. Start the conversation so that you all know what to do, who to check on and what resources are available nearby. Think of it as a household emergency plan for your entire neighbourhood, street or apartment floor. Maybe someone is a plumber and can help if the water lines are broken. Maybe someone is in a wheelchair and needs assistance getting around. Maybe someone has small children who need to be looked after.