

Cambridge Renter Ready for Extreme Weather?

CLIMATE RESILIENCE TOOLKIT

These are some of the steps you can take to protect yourself from extreme weather and improve the resiliency of your rental unit.



1. Use air conditioners

How: Talk to your property owner/manager about installing a window unit or fans.

Why: This will provide ventilation and cooling in your apartment.

2. Make sure you are in a cool area during the day

How: Spend time in a public air-conditioned place during the day, like a local branch of the Cambridge Public Library: <https://www.cambridgema.gov/Departments/cambridgepubliclibrary/>

Why: It is important for your body to get a break from the heat.

3. Make sure your family is prepared for extreme weather

How: Create a go-kit and sign up for emergency alerts.

Why: It will be easy to react quickly and you will be notified if there is an emergency event.

4. Maintain healthy trees and gardens

How: During summer months and heat waves, water plants and trees in your neighborhood.

Why: A thriving garden and healthy trees will provide shade and a cooler neighborhood.



Fresh Pond

5. Move low personal items at risk of flooding up higher

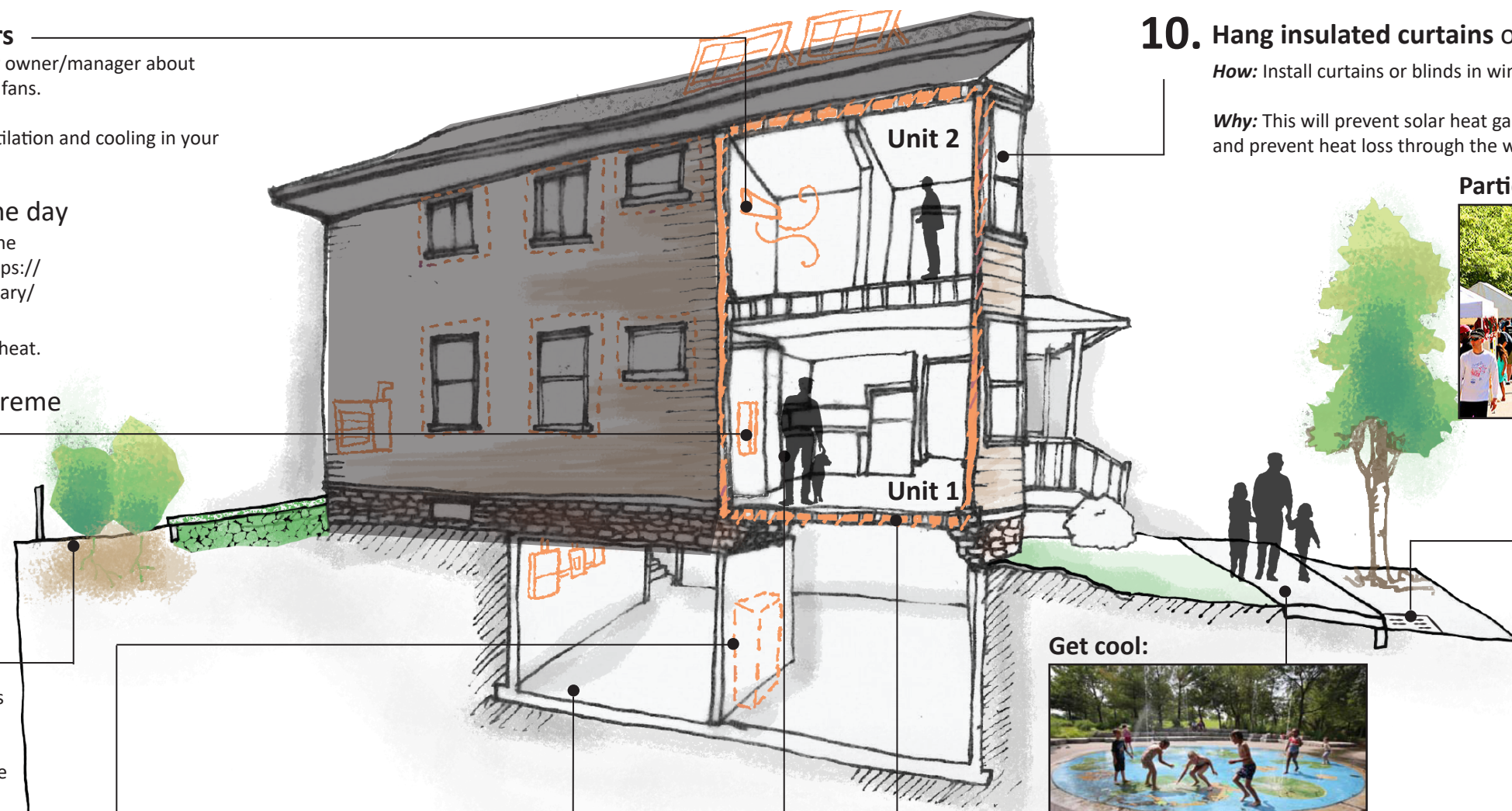
How: Store important documents/household items on a shelf or a watertight container.

Why: This will reduce the likelihood of damage from **flooding**, including preventing mold.

6. Use low- or no-cost ways to prevent mold, mildew, and pests

How: Use a dehumidifier on humid days. Talk to the Cambridge Public Health Department if you're concerned about mold or air quality in your rental: <https://www.cambridgepublichealth.org/a-public-health-hazard-or-concern/>.

Why: This will improve living conditions after a flooding or extreme heat event.



10. Hang insulated curtains over windows

How: Install curtains or blinds in windows that are most exposed to sun.

Why: This will prevent solar heat gain through windows in **extreme heat** and prevent heat loss through the windows in the winter.

Participate to community events:



Riverfest

9. Clean storm drains(s) close to your home

How: Remove leaves and dirt that clog the grates.

Why: This will allow for the City's infrastructure to best capture stormwater and reduce **flooding risk**.

Get cool:



Splash pad at Danehy Park

8. Advocate to insulate roof, basement, and exterior walls

How: Talk with your landlord about making energy efficiency improvements to your home, such as adding insulation to your exterior walls. Many of these improvements are available at no-cost for rental units. Learn more here: <https://allinenergy.org/cambridge.html>

Why: It will keep your home cooler during **extreme heat**, help maintain interior temperatures during power outages, and reduce electricity and utility bills.

7. Check on your neighbor

How: Knock on their door or give them a call.

Why: Some people who are elderly or with chronic disease are more at risk than others, and checking in during a **flooding** or **extreme heat** event could save a life.