

MailOnline

17,000 homes are built on high-risk flood plains every year

By [David Derbyshire](#)

Last updated at 11:29 PM on 29th May 2008

At least 17,000 homes every year are being built on 'high-risk' flood plains, the Government admitted yesterday.

Despite growing concerns about flash floods and overflowing rivers, around one in ten flats and houses was erected in an area of high flood risk in 2006.

The insurance industry said that as a result of 'poor planning decisions' homes were becoming uninsurable and it called on local councils to stop flood-plain development.



Danger: 17,000 homes are built on 'high risk' flood plains each year

The figures, released by the Department of Communities and Local Government, show that the proportion of homes built in high flood-risk areas has risen over the past two decades.

In 1989, just over eight per cent of new homes were at risk. In 2006, it was closer to ten per cent.

Government advisers have warned about the increased risk of flooding in England.

Last year's devastating floods killed up to 14 people and cost at least £3billion.

Insurance companies said hundreds of thousands of homes built in high-risk areas may not qualify for insurance.

Nick Starling, the Association of British Insurers' Director of General Insurance and Health, said: 'Poor planning decisions will lead to more homes becoming unsaleable, uninsurable and uninhabitable.'

Liberal Democrat housing spokesman Lembit Öpik said too many homes were being built in areas at risk. 'The Government is clearly failing to take flooding seriously,' he added.

The Government says it has introduced tougher rules to stop unsuitable developments while town hall planners have to

consult with the Environment Agency.

A spokesman for the Local Government Association said many towns and even much of London were built on flood plains but dwellings must be 'more resilient and designed appropriately'.

[Today's headlines](#)

[Most Read](#)

- [BBC presenter Ray Gosling arrested for murder after admitting mercy killing of gay lover suffering from Aids](#)
- [Fashion designer Alexander McQueen hanged himself in wardrobe, inquest hears](#)
- [Argentina 'imposes blockade on seas around Falklands'](#)
- [Terror of innocent Britons named as assassins: Why choose us, ask Britons whose identities were stolen by Mossad hit squad](#)
- [Saudi prince quizzed by police after his servant is found beaten to death in top London hotel](#)
- [ITV finally censured for turning up volume on ads to annoyance of millions](#)
- [Paedophile gets job driving children around park](#)
- [Fraudsters posed as McDonald's workers to steal electronic equipment in £2m scam](#)
- [The verdict on juries: Two-thirds of jurors do not understand judges' directions](#)
- [Benefits Britain: Long-term unemployed and dole claimants soar to highest level since Labour came to power](#)
- [Mother charged with murder after 'acid drink' kills three-year-old daughter](#)
- [First picture of woman charged with stabbing boyfriend in the eye with stiletto](#)
- [Obesity timebomb: Eight in 10 men will be overweight by 2020](#)
- [Vets call for 'dog Asbos' to control dangerous animals](#)
- [Immigration boom is stretching schools and hospitals to breaking point, council chiefs warn](#)
- [Stockbroker jumped to his death fearing he would lose his job over prank message](#)
- [Statins 'raise chance of diabetes'](#)
- [Third of students unaware Gordon Brown is Labour leader](#)
- [Lorry driver who killed couple in m-way smash admits 'I don't take much notice of the road'](#)
- [George Osborne's brother 'prescribed drug to cocaine-addict prostitute who wasn't his patient'](#)
- [British soldier, 19, 'killed by friendly fire'](#)
- [More setbacks for Toyota as car maker investigates steering problems on Corolla models](#)
- [A fortnight's rain in two days as snow prediction melts away \(but at least flowers are blooming\)](#)
- ['Stop stealing cars or you'll get killed': Mother's stark warning to joyrider hours before he died](#)
- [Fewer than half of children read fiction as books are abandoned for the internet](#)
- [Council plans £1.85m 'hijab' arches for Brick Lane](#)
- [Czech patient, 66, sues hospital after foot-long surgical instrument is left in her abdomen](#)
- [MORE HEADLINES](#)

[Terror of innocent Britons named as assassins: Why choose us, ask men whose identities were stolen by 'Mossad' hit squad](#)

[Saudi prince quizzed by police after servant is beaten to death in top London hotel](#)

[Chav-tastic outfits for Swiss skaters... and their routine wasn't too stylish either](#)

[Argentina takes control of Falkland Islands' waters after row with Britain over oil drilling rights](#)

[RICHARD KAY: Harry and Chelsy's love-in at romantic London restaurant](#)

[Moment teenager dangled baby girl out of a fifth-floor window as fire and smoke engulfed their apartment](#)

[City stockbroker jumped to his death from restaurant roof after fearing he would lose his job over prank message](#)

[Convicted paedophile gets job driving children around park](#)

[£30,000 bill for 'Yuckie' generation who can't afford to become independent](#)

[Britain's immigration boom is stretching schools and hospitals to breaking point, council chiefs warn](#)

[Lorry driver, 75, who killed couple in horror smash is jailed after admitting: 'I don't take much notice of the road'](#)

[Brilliant, eccentric BBC film-maker Ray Gosling says he killed his dying gay lover. But is his story all it seems?](#)

[Half a million Brits only wash their sheets three times A YEAR](#)

[How do I change my spots mum? Jaguar cub gives rare black mother a playful bite during first public appearance](#)

[Brussels train crash driver 'jumped out seconds before impact killed 18 passengers'](#)

[Secret love letters written by JFK to Swedish mistress expected to sell for £75,000 at auction](#)

['Stop stealing cars or you'll get killed': Mother's stark warning to joyrider hours before he died in fireball crash with three friends](#)

[£1.85m 'hijab' arches for Brick Lane are 'culturally insensitive and a waste of taxpayer money'](#)

[Tiger Woods' porn star mistress transforms herself into a prim Fifties-style housewife for TV interview](#)

[Have they flipped? Health and safety killjoys ban running in pancake race](#)

[George Osborne's doctor brother 'prescribed drug to cocaine-addict prostitute who wasn't his patient'](#)

[Excuse me, sir, I'm looking for the sea... seal surprises fisherman TEN MILES inland](#)

[A fortnight's rain in two days as the snow prediction melts away... but at least the flowers are blooming](#)

[Wife of airline liquid bomb plotter 'prayed he would achieve highest level of martyrdom'](#)

[MOST READ IN DETAIL](#)