

Appraiser Blog

South Florida Flood Leaves Cars Under Water



By Tony Rached

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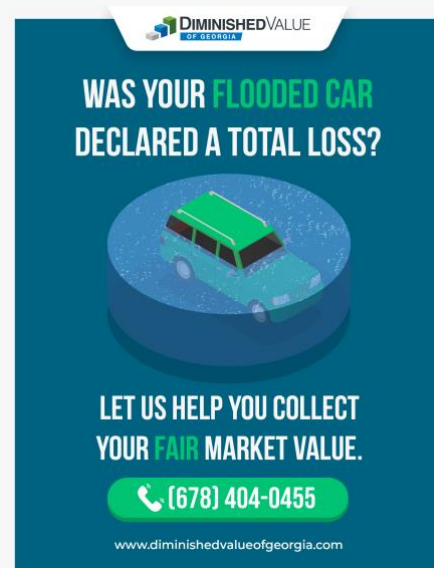
South Florida has been hit by heavy rainfall in recent days, causing flooding in many low-lying areas and neighborhoods. Temporary pumps were deployed in various locations, but some areas still experienced minor flooding, such as Edgewater. The situation has resulted in cars being towed out of flooded streets, and people attempting to drive through floodwaters, which is not advisable.

The heavy rainfall caused the closure of Fort Lauderdale's airport and all Broward public schools, resulting in flight delays and cancellations and affecting many parents who were unable to take their children to school. The flooding has also resulted in damage to many homes and businesses in the area, with many residents experiencing displacement due to the flooding.

The damage to cars has been a significant issue in this event, with many vehicles stranded in floodwaters, leading to costly repairs or even being declared a total loss. Water can damage a car's electrical systems, causing engine failure or shorting out the vehicle's electronics. Saltwater, which is more corrosive, can lead to rust and additional damage to the car's body, making repairs more expensive.

Unfortunately, many drivers do not realize the severity of the damage until it is too late, resulting in significant repair costs or the need to purchase a new vehicle. Car owners who have comprehensive insurance coverage may have some protection against flood damage, but it depends on their policy's specifics.

To prevent further damage to vehicles in the future, it is crucial for drivers to avoid driving through flooded streets. Even just a few inches of water can cause damage to a car's engine, exhaust system, and interior. It is also advisable to keep children and



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pets away from flooded areas and avoid using potentially contaminated water. Residents in flood-prone areas should store important documents in waterproof containers and ensure drains and gutters are clear of debris.

Was your car damaged during the South Florida flood? Is the insurance company offering you a fair value for your totaled vehicle?

Diminished Value of Georgia is an auto appraiser that specializes in total loss claims. Unlike insurance adjusters, an independent appraiser like Diminished Value of Georgia conducts a thorough analysis of the vehicle, taking into account all options, upgrades, and equipment. Many insurance policies include a provision that allows policyholders to use an outside auto appraiser, but this is an option that many people do not realize they have.

The team at Diminished Value of Georgia provides a valuation report that takes into account local comparables and adjusts the value to match the claimant's vehicle, including any recent repairs made prior to the flood damage. By presenting this report to the insurance company, a claimant can recover a fair and accurate amount for their flood-damaged vehicle.

Due to this devastating event in South Florida, Diminished Value of Georgia has set up a hotline to help people navigate the often confusing process of collecting a fair settlement on their flooded vehicles. Please call **(678) 404-0455** or fill out the questionnaire below.