



# Prepare your home

**We enjoy a wonderful climate and lifestyle in Queensland. However, natural hazards such as cyclone, storm, and flood are an inevitable part of our environment. History has shown that we cannot afford to be complacent about the dangers they present.**

Take time now to prepare for emergencies by:

- Preparing your Emergency Plan;
- Preparing your Emergency Kit,
- Preparing your home; and
- Tune into warnings.

These simple tasks can help you prepare for, survive, and minimise the impact of natural disasters.

The best time to take action to prepare your home is before storm, cyclone and monsoon season.

Here is a range of suggested tasks to assist you in preparing your home and property to minimise potential damage.

## 1. General home maintenance

- Check the condition of the roof and repair loose tiles, eaves and roof screws;
- Clean gutters and downpipes so water can drain away as quickly as possible;
- Trim trees and overhanging branches (be aware of any overhead power lines); and
- Secure loose items around your property and garden that could cause damage if blown around in high winds (such as garden furniture and toys).

## 2. General home preparations

- Ensure your home, contents and car insurance is current and covers your assets adequately – check your policy includes debris clean up and disposal;

- Identify which room is the strongest part of the house, in case you need to shelter in your home during severe storm or cyclone. Usually this would be the smallest room in the house, with the least windows;
- Identify where and how to turn off the mains supply for water, power and gas;
- Be aware of any manufacturer's shutdown procedures for solar power systems; and
- Purchase emergency essentials to have on hand, such as:
  - containers to store drinking water supplies,
  - spare supply of fuel for use in your vehicle (ensure you store safely),
  - wide masking tape for windows, and
  - hessian bags and sand for sandbagging indoor drains to prevent sewerage backwash from flooding.

## 3. If you live in a flood-prone area:

- Store all poisons well above ground level in case of flash flooding
- Identify which indoor items you will need to raise or empty if flooding threatens your home; and
- Consider the following:
  - alternatives to carpet floor coverings,
  - relocating electrical sockets and power-points to well above floor level, using a licensed electrical contractor.

## 4. If you live in an area prone to cyclone or severe storm:

- Fit windows with shutters or metal screens for added protection during high winds; and
- Arrange a professional builder to check your building and identify measures to increase the structural security of your home to withstand high winds.

## 5. When weather warnings for cyclone or severe storm are issued:

- Disconnect electrical appliances and all external television and radio aerials;
- Turn off electricity and gas main supplies if instructed by emergency authorities;
- Secure outdoor furniture and other garden items;
- Fill buckets and bath with clean water in case of interruptions to main water supply;

- Close windows with shutters or tape windows in a criss-crossing pattern using strong tape and draw curtains;
- Park vehicles under cover, away from trees, powerlines and waterways;
- If you cannot access undercover shelter for your vehicles, secure with firmly tied blankets to minimise hail damage;
- Check all household members are safe and are sheltering in the strongest room in the house;
- Take your Emergency Kit in with you whilst sheltering from the storm or cyclone; and
- Listen to your local radio station for updates on the event and further warnings and safety messages.

## always remember

**Preparing your home is an important step towards your family being prepared for, surviving and coping with emergencies.**

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For more information on preparing for emergencies visit [www.disaster.qld.gov.au](http://www.disaster.qld.gov.au)

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