Preparing for a storm

Storms are the most common natural hazard in Australia and can occur at anytime of the year.

While they are often unpredictable, there are a few simple steps you can take to help protect your house, car and family.

Before storm season

- Trim trees and branches around your house to prevent them from falling on your roof or car.
- Clear your gutters, downpipes and drains.
- Check your roof for any signs of damage or moisture and have them repaired.
- Make sure your fence is in good condition; check for holes, rust, unstable posts and sheets and have these repaired or replaced. It's also wise to avoid leaning heavy objects against your fence and remove any large plants or trees that may be leaning on your fence too.
- Secure loose objects outdoors such as furniture and play equipment to minimise the risk of them being blown around.
- Prepare an emergency kit with a torch and spare batteries, a first aid kit and a power bank to charge phones and other devices.
- Take photos of the interior and exterior of your house and car in case you need to make an insurance claim as a result of storm damage.

6 - 24hrs out from a storm

- Keep your pets safe; if they're usually kept outdoors, consider a space indoors until the weather passes.
- If possible, move your car under shelter; avoid parking near large trees as branches can fall and damage your car.
- Check that all windows and external doors are securely closed.

During a storm

- Be sure to stay indoors when a storm hits and keep an eye on electrical appliances.
- If there is lightning or you've lost power, carefully turn off and unplug the appliances; move them to a higher spot in your house if flood waters are expected. Refer to **Western Power's outages map** to check outage details and estimated power restoration times.
- For life threatening emergencies call 000. If you experience major damage such as a collapsed roof or ceiling and need urgent assistance, contact the State Emergency Service (SES) on 132 500 who can help with temporary emergency repairs.

After a storm

- When it is safe to do so, check your home and property for damage. If you have experienced storm damage, take photos as they may be needed for insurance claims.
- Avoid undertaking repairs yourself as it can cause further damage and it may not be covered under your insurance policy.
- If you notice damaged or fallen power lines in your area, keep your distance, at least 8 metres, check that no one is in immediate danger (call 000 if required) and contact Western Power immediately, they will make the area safe.

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Do you have the right level of home insurance cover?

It's a good idea to review your building and contents insurance regularly to make sure you have the right level of cover to suit your needs.

Storm damage can occur even when you do everything you can to keep your home safe. Having the right level of insurance will give you peace of mind should you need to claim after a storm.

Who to contact in the case of an emergency

Critical assistance: State Emergency Services (SES) **132 500**

Weather warnings: Bureau of Meteorology bom.gov.au or **1300 659 213**

Road conditions: Main Roads **138 138**

Emergencies only: Police, Fire or Ambulance **000**

Vehicle breakdown: RAC Roadside Assistance **13 11 11**

Contact us

Call us on 13 17 03 or log into **MyRAC** to manage your insurance policy online

Reference: Department of Fire & Emergency Services: **Prepare for a storm.** This document is designed to provide helpful general guidance on some key issues relevant to this topic. It should not be relied on as legal advice. It does not cover everything that may be relevant to you and does not take into account your particular circumstances. You must ensure that you seek appropriate professional advice in relation to this topic as well as to the currency, accuracy and relevance of this material for you.