

# Storm preparation



Storms are the most common natural hazard in Australia and on average cause more damage than cyclones, earthquakes, floods and bushfires.

From May to October each year, severe storms can cause major destruction to the southern half of Western Australia.

While the path and behaviour of storms can be unpredictable there are things you can do to limit the risk to your family, home and business.

## What should you do to prepare?

- » Trim branches around your property to prevent them falling.
- » Hire a contractor to clear trees surrounding powerlines.
- » Secure any loose outdoor objects such as outdoor furniture.
- » Check your roof and gutters for damage or loose material.
- » Clear gutters and downpipes and check for blockages to avoid overflowing during heavy rain.
- » Keep an emergency kit handy, including a battery-operated radio, a torch with spare batteries and a first aid kit.

## What to do if a storm hits

- » Park cars and other vehicles under secure shelter.
- » Make sure your mobile phone is fully charged.
- » Unplug electrical appliances and avoid using your landline telephone if there is lightning.
- » Always stay indoors and keep away from windows.
- » Make sure your pets have adequate shelter.
- » In the event of flooding, remember that sandbags can be made by filling plastic bags or pillow cases with sand.
- » If you find yourself outdoors during a storm be sure to take shelter away from any trees, powerlines, metal objects, storm water drains, rivers and streams.

## Driving during a storm

Keep up-to-date with the latest weather warnings and when possible avoid driving in poor weather conditions. If you are caught out driving during stormy conditions here are some helpful tips to follow:

- » Turn on your headlights.
- » Slow down and maintain a good stopping distance away from other vehicles on the road.
- » If there's poor visibility pull over to a safe location and turn on your hazard lights.
- » Be aware that wet roads can be especially slippery after a dry spell.
- » Be careful not to oversteer when cornering in wet conditions.
- » Use cold air to demist windscreens, as warm air can make the condition worse at first.
- » Avoid puddles and do not drive into water of unknown depth and current.

In the lead up to storm season check the condition of your vehicle such as tyre tread and wiper blades and stay prepared by having regular service checks carried out on your car.



Use our building and contents insurance calculators at [rac.com.au/calculators](https://rac.com.au/calculators) to estimate the value of your home and its contents.



## Do you have the right level of home insurance cover?

RAC Insurance recommends that you review your building and contents insurance regularly to make sure you have the right level of cover to suit your needs.

## 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**

## What are you covered for with RAC?

RAC Building and Contents Insurance includes\*:

- » Fire cover (natural and accidental)
- » Flood, earthquake and storm cover
- » New for old cover on home contents, regardless of age
- » Cover for furniture, carpets, household goods, appliances and gardening tools
- » Cover for clothing, jewellery and precious items
- » Cover for tools of trade
- » Cover for fences

For more information on how you can prepare for storm season visit the Department of Fire & Emergency Services (DFES) website at [dfes.wa.gov.au](http://dfes.wa.gov.au)



\*Cover is subject to policy terms and underwriting criteria. Sum insured limits apply to certain items. Check our PDS to see if the policy is right for you. RAC Insurance Pty Ltd (ABN 59 094 685 882) issues these products. RAC Head Office: 832 Wellington Street, West Perth, WA 6005.