

Get ready for cyclones

Prepare your family and home for cyclones.



Did you know?

- Cyclones are some of the **most powerful storms** on Earth, bringing damaging winds, heavy rain, storm surges, and flooding.
- **Hurricanes, typhoons, and cyclones** are all the same type of storm. They are named differently depending on where they occur.
- The calm, clear centre of a cyclone—known as the eye—can be deceiving. Once it passes, the other side will bring more **severe winds** and **thunderstorms**.

What is a cyclone?

A cyclone (also called a tropical cyclone, hurricane or typhoon) is a powerful, rotating storm system that forms over warm oceans. When it reaches land, a cyclone can:

- last hours or days
- cause heavy rain and flash flooding
- damage buildings, trees, powerlines
- cut off electricity, water and phone services.

Am I at risk?

You are most at risk if you live in or visit:

- Queensland, Northern Territory, Western Australia or New South Wales
- Areas close to sea level at risk of storm surges (a temporary rise in sea level)
- Homes surrounded by large trees or in flood-prone locations.

In Australia, most cyclones happen **between November and April**.



To learn more, visit the website

getready.gov.au



Warning Information

The Australian Warning System is used by emergency services to show how serious the risk is from an active cyclone. There are three warning levels that provide guidance on the actions you should take.



Advice



Watch and Act



Emergency Warning

In Australia, cyclones are rated Category 1 to Category 5. The higher the category, the higher the risk to lives and homes.

How to prepare for a cyclone

Preparing today can help you stay safe if there is a cyclone. Talk with everyone in your home and prepare together so each person knows what to do.

To prepare for a cyclone, you should:



Ready your home



Make an emergency plan



Pack an emergency kit



Talk to your neighbours and local community



Australian Government
National Emergency
Management Agency

Ready your home



- Tie down or store outdoor items like furniture, umbrellas, and trampolines.
- Trim tree branches.
- Clean gutters, downpipes and drains.
- Check and repair roofing, tiles, and windows.
- Install surge protectors to safeguard appliances.

Make an emergency plan



Talk to your family about what you will do if a cyclone is near.

Preparing today can help you stay safe and reduce stress when there is a cyclone. People who are prepared recover faster.

An emergency plan is a written document. **Here's what to include in your plan:**

Who will you call in an emergency?

Keep a list of important phone numbers in case you need help.

When will you leave and how will you stay safe when you go?

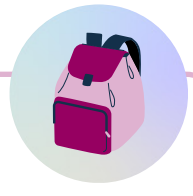
- Avoid travelling during a cyclone due to risks like flooding, fallen trees, and power outages.
- Don't delay - water rises quickly. If you don't feel safe, leave. You don't need to wait to be advised to evacuate.
- Never drive, walk, or swim through floodwater.
- Identify multiple routes in case roads are blocked and check routes before leaving.

Where will you go?

- Stay with family and friends who live in a safe area.
- Go to a community evacuation centre.

Regularly check state and local government emergency service websites and social media for updates on conditions in your area.

Pack an emergency kit



An emergency kit is a box or bag of essential items you can pack today so you are ready if a cyclone or other emergency happens.

Have at least three days of supplies in case you must stay home without power or water.

Keep your kit in a dry, easy-to-reach place, and make sure everyone in your home knows where it is.



What to pack in your emergency kit

Pack these items now so your kit is always ready. You may need to add items to your kit based on your family's specific situation.

- ☐ Clothes
- ☐ Woollen blankets
- ☐ Toiletries and toilet paper
- ☐ Sunscreen and hand sanitiser
- ☐ Medicines and a first aid kit
- ☐ Water (at least 3 litres per person, per day)
- ☐ Food (non-perishable food and a can opener)
- ☐ Battery-operated radio
- ☐ Torch & spare batteries

If you need to leave, make sure you take:

- ☐ Mobile phone and charger
- ☐ Important documents
- ☐ Valuables
- ☐ Cash and bank cards
- ☐ Medicines

Where to get more information

Find the contact details for your state or territory emergency services.

getready.gov.au



Learn how to receive warnings and prepare for cyclones and other natural hazards.



During a cyclone, listen to local alerts and updates on ABC or SBS radio.

Call **131 450** for the national Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS).



If you are in an emergency,
call 000 immediately.



Australian Government
National Emergency
Management Agency