

Get ready for storms

Prepare your family and home for storms.



Did you know?

- Severe storms cause more **property damage** in Australia than any other natural hazard.
- Storms can cause strong winds, heavy rain, hail, lightning, flash flooding, and tornadoes.
- Storms can strike at **any time of year**, often with little warning.

What is a storm?

A storm is a period of severe weather that may include strong winds, heavy rain, flash flooding, lightning, and hail.

Storms can:

- damage roofs, windows, fences, and vehicles
- flood nearby streets and homes
- disrupt electricity, internet and phone services
- start bushfires through lightning strikes
- disrupt transport and emergency services.

Am I at risk?

Storms can happen **anywhere** in Australia. You may be at higher risk if:

- you live near a creek, river or stormwater drain, or in a regional or coastal community
- your home is surrounded by large trees or has an older roof
- you rely on electricity for health or mobility equipment.



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 storm. There are three warning levels that provide guidance on the actions you should take.



Advice



Watch
and Act



Emergency
Warning

How to prepare for a storm

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

To prepare for a storm, 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

As part of regular home maintenance:

- Trim tree branches.
- Clean gutters, downpipes and drains.
- Check and repair roofing, tiles, and windows.
- Install surge protectors.

When a storm is approaching:

- Tie down or store outdoor items like furniture, umbrellas, and trampolines.



Make an emergency plan

Talk to your family about what you will do when a storm is approaching.

Preparing now can help you stay safe and reduce stress when there is a storm. 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 storm 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?

- Plan to 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 storm 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 storms and other natural hazards.

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

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

