

Protect your home from storms and floods

Preparation is key when there's a storm forecast.



BE PREPARED

Outside

- Regularly clear gutters and drains - built-up water can seep through internal walls causing damp problems, and if it freezes, the added weight could break your guttering completely.
- Check and fix your roof for loose or missing tiles to prevent water from leaking through and freezing in cracks. Also, make sure your TV aerial is secure as it can cause serious damage in high winds.
- Regularly trim your trees – unkept branches can crash down during a storm and damage your home.
- Store away any garden or outdoor items and keep sheds, garages and fences properly secured.

Inside

- Know where your fuse box is and remind yourself how to turn off your gas, electric and water supplies just in case.
- Unplug all non-essential electrical appliances.
- Keep valuables locked away safely, ideally in waterproof containers, and make sure any important documents are backed-up digitally.
- Close and fasten all doors and windows, including loft trap doors. In the event of severely high winds, even a small opening can allow enough wind inside to cause damage to your roof.
- Keep a list of emergency numbers – your GP, local authorities, utility companies and any home emergency helplines offered by your insurer.
- Prepare an emergency kit in case you need to leave your home with warm clothes, wellies, gloves, a first aid kit and a torch with batteries.



Always be cautious when undertaking any DIY task that you aren't familiar with, seek professional help where needed.

If you're in an area prone to flooding, there are some extra measures to consider



- ✓ **Sign up for flood warnings** – you'll get flood alerts by phone, text or email.
- ✓ Use ceramic tiles rather than carpets or wood, especially on ground floors.
- ✓ Move electrical sockets higher up the wall.
- ✓ Keep a back-up generator on hand in case your power goes out.
- ✓ Fit non-return valves to stop flood water entering your home through drains.
- ✓ Know where you can get help – many areas prone to flooding have community hubs in place where you can find food, clothing, shelter and advice during a flood. Visit nationalfloodforum.org.uk to find local support.
- ✓ Check your home insurance so you know what you're covered for.