

How to protect your home from storms and floods

When there's a storm forecast, preparation is key. Here are some of our top tips to keep your home safe during storms and floods.



Outdoors

- Clear your gutters and drains, built up water can seep through walls and cause damp problems. Freezing water can also break your guttering completely.
- Check and fix your roof for loose or missing tiles to prevent water leaking through.
- Make sure your TV aerial is secure to avoid serious damage in high winds.
- Regularly trim your trees - unkept branches can break during a storm and damage your home.
- Store away any outdoor items and keep sheds, garages and fences properly secured.

Indoors

- Know where your fuse box is and how to turn off your gas, electric and water supplies, in case of emergencies.
- Unplug all non-essential electrical appliances.
- Lock valuables away safely and make sure any documents are backed-up digitally.
- Close and fasten all doors and windows, including loft trap doors. With severely high winds, even a small opening can allow enough wind inside to damage to your roof.
- Keep a list of local emergency numbers: your GP, local authorities, utility companies and any home emergency helplines offered by your insurer.
- Make 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.
- ✓ Get a back-up generator in case your power goes out.
- ✓ Fit non-return valves to stop flood water entering your home through drains.
- ✓ Find the nearest community hub in your area where you can find food, clothing, shelter, and advice.
- ✓ Check your home insurance so you know what you're covered for.