



PREPARING FOR CYCLONE

The more prepared you are for emergencies, the less stressful they become. Some simple steps can help you to plan and prepare for unexpected events like cyclone and protect you, your loved ones and your property.

Maintaining your home in good condition is one of the most important actions you can take to protect it during a cyclone.

Prepare for cyclone

- Check with local council to see if your home is built to cyclone standards
- Check walls, roof and eaves are secure. Check for signs of corrosion to batten straps, fixing bolts, fixing plates, screws and nails particularly inside the roof space.
- Take photos/video of your property and contents to assist if you need to make a claim later
- Trim trees and branches well clear of your home
- Fit shutters or metal screens to all glass areas
- Check for rotted timbers and framing and replace any you find
- Check and re-tighten tie-down bolts or other fixings if required
- Timber requires ongoing inspections and maintenance. If termite damage is found to your home seek expert advice
- Brace garage doors to reduce the risk of them blowing in



During the cyclone

- ◆ Disconnect all electrical appliances
- ◆ Listen to ABC Radio on a battery-powered radio for emergency updates
- ◆ Stay inside and shelter in the strongest part of the house - a small internal room or bathroom
- ◆ Tape glass on windows and doors
- ◆ Shelter away from windows and doors
- ◆ Keep fridge and freezer doors closed
- ◆ If the building starts to break up - protect yourself with mattresses, rugs or blankets
- ◆ Shelter under a strong bench or hold onto a solid fixture
- ◆ Avoid damaged powerlines, poles, wires and fallen trees
- ◆ Beware the calm eye of the cyclone -the wind will soon resume from the other direction
- ◆ Wait for the official "All Clear" before leaving shelter
- ◆ Don't use portable generators indoors, they produce dangerous gasses
- ◆ If driving - stop, keep the handbrake on and car in gear

After the cyclone

- * Listen to ABC Radio on a battery-powered radio for emergency updates
- * Don't go outside until advised it is safe to do so
- * Check for gas leaks, don't use electric appliances if wet
- * If you evacuated, don't return home until advised it is safe
- * Avoid fallen power-lines, trees, damaged bridges and buildings
- * Don't enter floodwaters - electrical current passes easily through water
- * Don't use portable generators in enclosed spaces.
- * Open doors and windows in dry weather to allow air to circulate and prevent mould
- * Remove damaged carpets, curtains or soft furnishings that pose a health risk, photograph them first and keep a small sample before you dispose of them
- * Boil tap water until supplies have been declared safe
- * Throw away any food or medications that may be contaminated