



# SPRING STORM PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

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Emergency Go Bag Essentials: Be ready to evacuate quickly by packing a go bag with these essentials:

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WIN an EM  
Go Bag](#)

- **Water:** At least one gallon per person per day for at least three days.
- **Non-perishable food:** High-energy snacks like granola bars, canned goods, or freeze-dried meals.
- **First Aid Kit:** Include bandages, antiseptic wipes, pain relievers, and any necessary prescription medications.
- **Flashlight & Extra Batteries:** Ensure you have a reliable light source and spare batteries.
- **Portable Charger:** Keep your phone charged for emergency communications.
- **Important Documents:** Copies of IDs, insurance policies, medical records, and any necessary paperwork.
- **Cash:** Small bills in case ATM machines are down.
- **Blankets & Extra Clothing:** Comfortable, weather-appropriate items to stay warm.
- **Hygiene Items:** Toothbrush, soap, and hand sanitizer.
- **Multi-tool or Pocket Knife:** For any emergency repairs or tasks.
- **Whistle & Fire Extinguisher:** To signal for help and protect against fire.
- **Maps:** Local maps in case GPS or phones fail.



# Precautions to Take Around the Home:

## Before Storms:

- **Trim Trees & Shrubs:** Cut away dead or overhanging branches that could cause damage during high winds.
  - **Secure Outdoor Items:** Bring in lawn furniture, tools, and decorations that could become projectiles.
  - **Clear Gutters & Drains:** Ensure that water can flow freely to prevent flooding.
  - **Reinforce Windows & Doors:** Consider storm shutters or plywood for added protection during high winds or tornadoes.
  - **Check Roof & Foundation:** Inspect for leaks, cracks, or damage that could worsen during the storm.
  - **Install a Weather Radio:** Ensure you can receive updates on storm progress, especially if power goes out.
  - **Check Emergency Supplies:** Restock first aid kits, water, and food supplies in your emergency go bag.
  - **Know Your Safe Space:** Identify the safest room or basement in your home to take shelter during extreme weather.
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## During Storms:

- **Stay Indoors:** Never go outside during a storm, even if it seems mild, as conditions can change quickly.
- **Avoid Windows & Glass Doors:** Stay away from windows, glass doors, and skylights to prevent injury from flying debris.
- **Seek Shelter in a Basement or Interior Room:** If a tornado is expected, take shelter in a basement or small, windowless room on the lowest floor of your home.
- **Unplug Electronics:** Disconnect major appliances to protect them from power surges.
- **Monitor Weather Updates:** Keep an eye on local news or use a weather app for updates.

## After Storms:

- **Inspect Your Home for Damage:** Look for structural damage, fallen trees, broken windows, or leaking pipes.
  - **Check for Gas Leaks:** Smell for gas and avoid turning on lights if you suspect a leak.
  - **Stay Clear of Flooded Areas:** Water could be contaminated or hiding hazards like downed power lines.
  - **Document Damage:** Take photos of any storm damage for insurance claims.
  - **Use Caution with Power Lines:** Stay far from any downed power lines. Report them to authorities immediately.
  - **Wait for Official All-Clear:** Don't leave your shelter until officials declare it safe to do so.
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## What to Do If Your Home Incurs Damage:

- **Ensure Safety First:** Make sure the area is safe to enter. Avoid standing water and potential electrical hazards.
- **Contact Insurance:** Call your insurance company to report damage as soon as possible. They may direct you on the next steps for temporary repairs.
- **Temporary Repairs:** If it's safe, try to cover broken windows or roof damage with tarps to prevent further water damage.
- **Keep Receipts:** Save receipts for any supplies you purchase for repairs or cleanup; they may be reimbursable through insurance.
- **Document the Damage:** Take detailed photos of all damage for your insurance claim.
- **Stay Informed:** Continue monitoring weather reports to avoid additional risks.

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# Storm-Specific Safety Tips:

## Tornadoes:

- **Plan an Evacuation Route:** Know multiple escape routes from your home in case a tornado is imminent.
- **Take Cover in the Lowest Level:** Basements are ideal, but if unavailable, go to an interior room or hallway on the ground floor.
- **Cover Your Head & Neck:** Use blankets, mattresses, or any sturdy objects to shield your body from debris.
- **Avoid Vehicles:** Never attempt to outrun a tornado in a vehicle. Find shelter immediately.

## Fire:

- **Clear Brush & Debris:** Create a defensible space around your home to prevent fires from spreading.
- **Have Fire Extinguishers Ready:** Place them near the kitchen and other high-risk areas.
- **Avoid Open Flames:** Refrain from using candles or open flames if a storm is approaching.
- **Know Your Evacuation Plan:** Have an escape route planned and ensure all family members know where to go.

## High Winds:

- **Stay Away from Trees & Power Lines:** Flying debris can cause injury or death. Take shelter indoors.
- **Secure Loose Objects:** Bring in items that could be picked up by the wind, such as outdoor furniture, tools, and toys.
- **Move to a Small, Windowless Room:** If the winds are severe, retreat to the safest area of your home.

## Flash Flooding:

- **Know Flood Zones:** Familiarize yourself with local flood maps to know if your home is in a flood-prone area.
- **Avoid Floodwaters:** Don't attempt to walk, swim, or drive through flooded areas. Even small amounts of moving water can be dangerous.
- **Elevate Important Items:** Move critical belongings, like electronics and documents, to higher ground.

