

PROTECT WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU

getready.qld.gov.au

Protect your family, pets, home and contents.

Take steps to protect what's most important to you.



GENERAL HOME MAINTENANCE for natural disasters



HOME PREPARATION for cyclones, storms and potential flooding



HOME PREPARATION for when severe weather warnings are issued



HOME PREPARATION for bushfires



PROTECT your pet

HOME PREPARATION PLANS

All disasters are different, but all require good home preparation plans.

Based on your understanding of the risks that you face, the following guides provide steps to protect what's most important to you.

HOME MAINTENANCE AND PREPARATION FOR ALL DISASTERS



- 1** Check the condition of the roof regularly and repair loose tiles, eaves, screws and cracked or broken guttering or flashing.
- 2** Clean gutters and downpipes so water can drain away as quickly as possible.
- 3** Trim trees and overhanging branches that are close to your home.
- 4** Fix any corrosion, loose fittings and rotting or termite-affected timber.
- 5** Repair any broken sealant around window sills to make watertight.
- 6** Empty standing water from any containers and paddling pools that are not frequently emptied in the yard to prevent mosquito growth which can carry disease.

HOME PREPARATION FOR SEVERE WEATHER

When a cyclone, severe storm or flooding is predicted by authorities, a severe weather warning will be issued to affected communities. Take the steps below to ready your home for severe weather approaching.



- 1 Disconnect electrical appliances and all external television and radio aerials.
- 2 Fill buckets and bath with clean water in case of interruptions to main supply.
- 3 Close windows with shutters or draw curtains.
- 4 Move outdoor equipment, garbage, chemicals and poisons to a higher location.
- 5 Empty and raise freezers and refrigerators and stack or move furniture, valuables and electrical items off-site.
- 6 Sandbag internal drains and toilets to prevent sewage backflow.
- 7 Move livestock, plant and feed to higher ground.
- 8 Park vehicles under cover, away from trees, powerlines and waterways. If you cannot access undercover shelter for your vehicles, secure with firmly tied blankets to minimise hail damage.
- 9 Check all household members are safe (including your pets) and are in the strongest room in the house e.g. bathroom or laundry.
- 10 Take your emergency kit in with you whilst sheltering from the storm or cyclone.

Go to getready.qld.gov.au/disasterwarnings for warnings services

HOME PREPARATION FOR CYCLONES, STORMS AND POTENTIAL FLOODING



- 1 Identify which room is the strongest part of the house, in case you need to shelter in your home during a severe storm or cyclone. Usually this would be the smallest room in the house, with the least windows e.g. bathroom or laundry.
- 2 Identify where and how to turn off the mains supply for water, power and gas.
- 3 Pack your emergency and evacuation kits – ensure the location is included on your household emergency and evacuation plan.
- 4 Store safely a spare supply of fuel for use in your vehicle.
- 5 Have readily available hessian bags and sand for sandbagging indoor drains to prevent sewerage backwash from flooding.
- 6 Identify loose items that would need to be secured that could cause damage if blown around in high winds (such as garden furniture and toys).
- 7 Store all poisons well above ground level.
- 8 Identify which indoor items you will need to raise or empty if flooding threatens your home.

HOME PREPARATION FOR BUSHFIRES



- 1 Check to see if the vegetation on your property is protected and prohibited from removal by contacting your local council .
- 2 Have good access to water around your house e.g. tanks, swimming pools. Don't rely on electric pumps and town water as these services can go down during fire emergencies.
- 3 Remove door mats or flammable materials.
- 4 Do not place garden waste and other flammable materials in fuel free zones, firebreaks and fire access trails.
- 5 Maintain a fuel free zone around your fence line.
- 6 Never dump garden waste and other flammables in adjoining bushland areas.
- 7 Remove vegetation overhanging your house.
- 8 Clean decks, gutters and roof valleys.
- 9 Rake up bark, leaves and twigs.
- 10 Clear firewood, other flammables and rubbish from under and around the house.
- 11 Make sure your property has clear access for fire trucks.

PROTECT YOUR PET

In emergency situations, pets are often the most vulnerable member of the family.

It's important to consider what will happen to our pets in the event of a natural disaster. This means thinking about what plans you can put in place now to make sure your pet is cared for if you were unable to get home, or what you would do with your pet if you had to evacuate.



- 1 If evacuation is required during a disaster, taking your pet with you or relocating your pet to an alternative location is the best way to protect them. Make a plan for where you could take them, keeping in mind that pets may not be allowed in evacuation shelters unless they are a service animal. Check with family and friends who live outside your local area to see if they would be able to look after your pets if you needed to evacuate. If moving animals to a safer place, do so early to avoid unnecessary risk and ensure they have access to plenty of food and water.
- 2 Have contingencies or arrangements in place for transporting animals in emergencies. This extends to livestock where access to horse floats and trucks should be considered.
- 3 In the event you are unable to get home during a natural disaster, pre-arrange with friends who live close by or neighbours for them to collect and care for your pets at their place until you are able to return or be reunited.
- 4 Have your pet microchipped and registered with your local council. Have them wear a collar with up-to-date contact information and identification at all times.
- 5 Have a pet emergency kit (see below) ready to go to save you time during emergencies.
- 6 If you have to leave your pets behind, leave them indoors (if possible) and place pets in separate rooms with small or preferably no windows e.g. the bathroom. Provide adequate food and water in large heavy bowls. If left outside do not tie them up. When you have to wait out a severe weather event at home identify a safe area where you can all stay together e.g. bathroom or laundry and secure animals in plenty of time so they don't take flight.
- 7 Talk to your vet about any special considerations for your pet.

PET EMERGENCY KIT



- 1 Food and bottled water for at least five days – include feeding bowls and a can opener.
- 2 Medicines with clear instructions, medical records and first aid.
- 3 Blankets, bedding or nesting material.
- 4 Favourite toys that bring comfort.
- 5 Vaccination, registration and current photos of you and your pet.
- 6 Collar with ID tag, harness or leash.
- 7 Birds and pocket pets need shelter coverage for their enclosure.
- 8 Have carry boxes (for smaller pets), leads (for dogs) and halters (for livestock) readily accessible.
- 9 Litter tray, litter, waste bags and cleaning products.
- 10 Contact details for your veterinarian, local animal shelter, local council and alternative animal accommodation facility.
- 11 Evidence that your pet is a service animal and appropriately trained to access public areas.
- 12 Consider whether pet insurance is right for you and have relevant paperwork in your emergency kit.