Storms

* We’re renowned for our spectacular storms here in Queensland.
* At their best storms can be a welcome part of summer, but at their worst they can be unpredictable and can occur with little warning and potential to cause substantial damage to homes and vehicles.
* That’s why it is important to understand your risk and have a plan in place to help reduce the impact of storms on you, your loved ones, home, and business.

**How to prepare your home for storms**

* Strong winds during storms are powerful enough to cause extensive property damage and turn loose items into wind-borne debris.
* Completing a few simple tasks around your home can significantly reduce the risk of damage to your home and car during a storm.
  + Secure loose items around your home like trampolines, garden furniture, and toys that would need to be secured that could cause damage if blown around in high winds.
  + Identify where and how to turn off the mains supply for [water](https://www.unitywater.com/faults-and-emergencies/water-supply-problems/can-you-turn-off-your-stop-tap), power and [gas](https://www.australiangasnetworks.com.au/gas-explained/about-natural-gas/gas-leaks-and-emergencies).
  + If a storm is imminent, move your car undercover. If you are unable to park your car under cover, avoid parking under a tree.
  + Conduct regular maintenance on your home:
    - clear gutters and downpipes;
    - check the condition of your roof and repair loose tiles, eaves, screws and cracked guttering or tears in flashing;
    - trim overhanging branches close to your home;
    - fix any corrosion, loose fittings and rotting or termite-impacted timber; and
    - repair broken sealant around window sills.

**Flooding**

* Heavy rain caused by storms can lead to flash flooding.
* Remember to never walk, swim, or drive in flood water because you can never tell what’s lurking beneath or the strength of the road below.
* If it’s flooded, forget it.

**For more information on how to prepare your home for storms and other severe weather this season, visit getready.qld.gov.au**