

# Cyclones

Cyclones generally occur between November and April each year with areas such as tropical Queensland, northern Western Australia and the Northern Territory most at risk



## What can you do now?

- Find out if your home is in a high-risk area for cyclones and if your policy covers you for cyclone, possible storm surges and flooding
- Contact your local council or your building control authority to see if your house has been built to cyclone standards
- Be aware cyclone building codes are designed to protect people. They do not prevent severe damage to the building itself
- Understand the impact different cyclone categories could have on your home (Category 1-5)
- Prepare a cyclone plan
- Have waterproof bags ready to protect clothing and important documents from water damage – keep these with your emergency kit
- Identify the strongest part of your property to shelter in should a cyclone hit, and find out if your property is prone to flash or riverine flooding or storm surge
- Check the condition of your roof and repair any damage or loose tiles and check that all windows and external doors close and lock securely
- Keep trees or branches overhanging your property trimmed
- Fit shutters or metal screens to all glass areas
- Planning renovations or extensions? Think about choosing building materials that have a higher cyclone resistant rating



## Quick tips When a cyclone watch is issued

- Stay indoors unless otherwise advised by emergency authorities
- Risk of storm surge or flooding? Emergency authorities may recommend evacuation from the coast to higher ground
- Secure all loose items outside your home including garden furniture, umbrellas, sheds and children's cubby houses. And secure any boats or vehicles and move these undercover if possible
- Check that piping and guttering are not blocked and your roof is in good condition