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.

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