

# Severe Weather Safety Tips for Your Home



## Be prepared: Put together emergency items *before* severe weather strikes

It's a good idea to put together an emergency kit to grab at a moment's notice. Store your basic emergency kit in a waterproof container and remember to include:

- **Flashlights** for each person in your family and extra batteries.
- **Battery-operated radio** with weather band and extra batteries.
- **First aid kit** and manual.
- **Credit cards**
- **Work gloves**
- **Duct tape**
- **Sleeping gear**, including pillows, blankets, sleeping bags, air mattresses or cots.
- **Basic hand tools**, such as a hammer, nails, screwdriver, wrench and hatchet.
- **Important papers** such as drivers' licenses, special medical information, insurance policies, personal belongings inventories, titles and social security cards.
- **List of phone numbers** and addresses for emergency services, shelters, physicians, family and friends outside your area.

## You'll also want to build a survival kit with the following items:

- **Food:** Store at least a two-week supply of non-perishable foods and special dietary foods, if necessary. Store a manual can opener with the food supply.
- **Drinking water:** Have at least one gallon per person per day for two weeks.
- **Two coolers:** One for food, the other to hold ice. Ice is a precious commodity before and after a storm.
- **Plastic tarp:** Use for roof or window repair.
- **Water purification tablets:** Plain chlorine and iodine.
- **Prescription medicines:** Have at least a four-week supply.
- **Infant necessities:** Have a supply of diapers, formula and plastic bags.
- **Extra clothing:** Pack shoes and a spare pair of eyeglasses.
- **Cash:** With no power, banks may be temporarily closed, checks and credit cards may not be accepted, and ATMs may not be in operation.
- **Camera:** With film or video recorder.

**Make sure everyone in your family knows where the kits are kept.** Review your emergency plan with your family and post the written plan. Children may be at school and adults at work when the storm hits. Have a plan for getting back together. Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as the "family contact."

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