



Protect your home from extreme weather

Severe weather events that used to happen every 40 years are now expected to occur every six years according to the Insurance Bureau of Canada (www.ibc.ca). In fact, in the past few years, Canada has experienced more frequent and extreme wind and rain storms, floods and paralyzing events like ice storms.

It's Allstate's commitment to provide the best protection for you and your family and to keep you informed about how to protect yourself and home during severe weather events. Here are just a few tips to protect your home and property from extreme weather.

TIPS

PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM COLD WEATHER



1. Keep your house heated to a minimum of 18 degrees Celsius to prevent the inside walls from freezing.
2. Identify the location of the main water shutoff in your home and know how it works.
3. During extremely cold weather, open hot and cold faucets enough to let them drip slowly to prevent pipes from freezing.
4. Keep gutters and downspouts clear of leaves and debris to prevent ice dams from forming.
5. Properly insulate areas of heat loss in your attic; wrap and insulate heating duct work.
6. Check walls, floors, windows and foundations for cracks or leaks and make any necessary repairs immediately.
7. Remove snow from basement stairwells, window wells, gutters and around walls.

8. If your pipes freeze, thaw them immediately (wrap pipes in towels soaked in boiling water, or use hot air from a hair dryer, while being careful to stay away from standing water to avoid the risk of shock, or call a plumber for assistance).

PREPARE FOR HIGH WINDS, HEAVY RAINS AND FLOODS

1. Contact your municipal offices to inquire about disaster relief programs in your community.
2. Keep the area around your home clear of garbage and recycling bins, patio furniture, yard debris and other objects that heavy winds could pick up and blow around.
3. Clear eavestroughs and downspouts of leaves and debris and ensure downspouts drain properly — ideally six feet away from your home.



GOOD HANDS® ADVICE TO HELP YOU BE PREPARED AND INFORMED



4. Get a licensed professional to: install an anti-backflow valve; install a sump pump with a reliable power backup; inspect your current equipment; clear drains of roots or obstructions; and ensure drain systems are working properly.
5. If it looks like water intrusion may occur, shut off the electricity and outside gas valve immediately. Move important personal documents and expensive items out of the basement to a higher floor to keep them safe from water damage.
6. Never go near or touch fallen power lines. Call your local energy utility company to alert them to damage.

GENERAL TIPS TO HELP YOU BE PREPARED

1. Keep a home inventory checklist of all of the valuable items in your home.
2. Stock up on extra non-perishable food and keep a supply of extra drinking water (enough to last at least 72 hours). Prepare an emergency kit with working flashlights, extra batteries, cash, medical supplies and important documents.



3. Be sure to have someone check on your home daily if you're going to be away for more than a few days to ensure heat is being maintained.

Take time now to prepare your home for extreme weather that can cause damage and costly repairs. For more detailed information and advice on preparation and what to do after extreme weather hits, visit www.allstate.ca/learningcentre.

To receive e-newsletters and alerts for severe storm warnings in your area (e.g. risk of flooding), call your local agent or **1-800-ALLSTATE** to sign up.

