

# The Go-To Cyclone Checklist

Cyclones are frequent visitors of Australia between November and April across coastal areas. Here are some precautionary measures as recommended by Emergency Management Australia

## Before a cyclone

- Pack a survival kit as well as a small evacuation package of important documents, keepsakes and things you would hate to lose if you had to evacuate quickly.
- Before the cyclone season, check with your local council if your home has been built to cyclone standards.
- Have your roof inspected by a qualified roofing contractor to ensure your roof and eaves are in good condition to withstand cyclonic winds and heavy rain.
- Trim treetops and branches well clear of your home (get council permission).
- Fit shutters, or at least metal screens, to all glass areas to protect from wind driven debris.
- Clear your property of loose material that could blow about and possibly cause injury or damage during extreme winds.
- In case of a storm warning or other flooding, know your nearest safe high ground and the safest access route to it.
- When a cyclone watch is issued, fill your car's fuel tank.
- Ensure that your family members know which is the strongest part of your house.
- Keep tuned to a portable radio for warnings and advice including locations on where to pick up sandbags for potentially affected areas

## During a cyclone

- When the cyclone strikes, disconnect all electrical appliances. Listen to your battery radio for updates.
- Stay indoors (unless you are asked to evacuate) in the strongest part of the building, i.e. cellar, internal hallway or bathroom. Keep evacuation and survival kits with you.
- Protect yourself with mattresses, rugs or blankets under a strong table or bench if the building starts to break up.
- Drive carefully as roads may be filled with debris.
- After the cyclone, make a list of items that have been destroyed or damaged by the cyclone and where possible take photos of the make and model of electrical items

### Survival kit should include:

- A portable battery radio, torch and spare batteries.
- Water, dried or canned food for 3 days and a can opener.
- Matches, fuel or battery-powered lantern, portable stove, cooking gear, eating utensils.
- Cash on hand for supplies.
- First aid kit and manual.

## What to expect from your insurance during a major event?

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