

# Protecting your home and motor against storm damage

## A few handy tips

Prevention is better than cure, that's why we've put together a few handy tips to help protect your home and motor against storm damage.



### Home

Reducing the risk of storm damage is a great way to keep your house looking like a happy home. Make sure you're prepared before the storm knocks at your door.

- Get some **temporary flood protection equipment** before the storm hits. Devices that can block airbricks, doors, pipes, vents and windows can help keep floodwater out of your home
- **Check your roof**, chimney and any lightweight wall construction is in sound condition. Look for things like missing tiles, drainage areas on flat roofs, worn concrete or cracked flashings.
- **Lock your valuables away safely**, ideally in an upper floor waterproof container
- **Have power on standby**. You can either get a wholehouse surge protective device or a home generator to give your home power in case of longterm electricity outages
- **Install storm shutters or impact resistant glass** to prevent your windows from shattering
- **Make plans** for where you and your family will go in case you need to evacuate your home



- **Clear away outdoor items** if a storm is heading your way, and anchor your shed
- **Keep a stock of sandbags** or ask your local council who may be able to supply some for you
- **Use flood resilient materials** if you're refurbishing or decorating your property, such as ceramic tiles on ground floors
- **Move any kitchen units** and electrical sockets above ground level if you're in an area prone to flooding
- **Check your insurance coverage beforehand** so you know what you're covered for and who to contact if your home gets damaged
- **Back up any important files on your computer** to avoid the loss of any sentimental or business material, such as family photos or work documents



### Did you know?

Both lightning and flood damage could completely wipe a computer's hard drive



**Always keep an emergency kit ready and make sure it's somewhere you can access easily.**

- Torch (with spare batteries)
- Canned food (enough for at least three days)
- Portable cooking equipment
- Bottled water (enough for at least three days)
- Portable radio (with spare batteries)
- Blankets, waterproof clothing and wellington boots (for each household member)



- A list of local emergency numbers (e.g. your GP, the council)
- Insurance details
- First aid kit
- Hand sanitiser
- Disposable masks and gloves



## Motor

You don't need a sat nav to navigate the risks to your vehicle - it's all about preparation. We've put together some useful tips to help prevent damage to your motor.

**Use hail covers**, padded motor vehicle covers designed to reduce or prevent hail damage

**Don't drive into floods** because if your engine or interior fills with water, your motor will likely be destroyed

**Top up your fuel** before a storm hits in case you need to leave a flooded area

**Park your vehicle inside or under overhead cover** to protect your motor from anything that might blow outside such as debris, fences and trees



**If possible, get your vehicle to higher ground** by parking it on an elevated spot where it'll be less prone to flooding

**Disconnect the batteries** as soon as you're aware of incoming floods. This will help protect your motor's electricals in case it gets submerged.

**Follow our five steps if your vehicle is flooded.**

- 1. Don't start the vehicle straight away.** Make sure the internals of all the mechanical parts of the motor have dried up completely, such as the brake discs
- 2. Dry up your interiors.** Open all doors to let any water out and leave your motor to dry in a warm area. You can also use a vacuum, heater or fan to help dry it
- 3. Replace all the fluids of your motor.** Drain the existing fluids and replace them with new ones before starting your motor
- 4. Replace your air filter.** Install a new air filter so the combustion chamber isn't exposed to damage
- 5. Get your motor serviced** at your local mechanic

