

SEVERE WEATHER SAFETY

7 Tips for Storm Safety

There are a number of simple steps home owners can take to protect personal safety, preserve electrical equipment, and deal with potential damage to the home's electrical system.

Follow the checklist below to help get yourself and your property ready ahead of storm season.

- 1. Put Safety First**

Don't attempt do-it-yourself repairs if your property suffers storm damage, including your home's electrical system and any electrical appliances affected. Call a qualified electrical contractor

- 2. Protect the system.**

Ask an electrician about having lightning protection installed in your switchboard to protect all appliances. A small investment in surge protection could save you thousands of dollars to replace electrical items.

- 3. Go offline before the storm.**

Unplug all sensitive appliances, such as computers and TVs, and disconnect the telephone and TV antenna before the storm arrives.

- 4. Don't connect during the storm.**

Don't use equipment directly connected to electricity, including the stove, during a severe storm

- 5. Be wary of wires.**

Don't go outside to check the damage before an electrician arrives, especially during a storm, as fallen power lines are easily concealed and can be deadly.

- 6. Call an electrician before your energy distributor.**

If the wires have been torn down in a black out, most houses will require internal repairs before the power can be reconnected. In those cases, you need to contact an electrician before the distributor is called out, as your electricity distributor will be unable to assist until the wiring is fixed.

What to do During a Flood

If your property is in danger of flooding it is essential you take precautions to avoid the risk of electrocution. The three key precautions to keep in mind are:

- Ensure the main switch has been turned off
- Ensure appliances are unplugged and removed from power outlets
- Contact an electrician to check for damage prior to restoring the electricity.

Appliance safety

Ensure any appliances are clear of any electrical faults to avoid any further loss or damage. A wet toaster or a damp hairdryer can give an electric shock or spark a fire so make sure all electrical appliances are declared 100 per cent safe before they are plugged back in. These kinds of checks should be routine during flood clean-ups.

A Master Electrician will be able to accurately assess any electrical risks in your home, including testing household appliances for electrical faults or water damage.

Power Lines

Take care for fallen or damaged power lines. Fallen power lines are very dangerous and can be especially hard to see at night and when hidden in trees or other flood debris. Always assume fallen power lines are 'live', keep away and warn others to do the same. Report fallen power lines and trees or branches in contact with power lines to your electricity provider.

Safety Switches

Have a Master Electrician test your safety switches, and if you don't have one, your Master Electrician can install one for you. A safety switch is designed to cut the power off before electrocution can occur.

After a Flood

Contact a qualified electrician to check for damage prior to restoring the electricity

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This information is brought to you by Master Electricians Australia – www.masterelectricians.com.au

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