

Storm Safety/ Severe Weather Checklist

When it comes to the unpredictable nature of weather, it's important to be as prepared as possible. Use this checklist to ensure your family and home are ready to weather any storm.

Before the Storm

- Reattach loose window shutters and gutters.
- Clean and inspect your gutters.
- Secure or relocate outdoor belongings such as patio furniture and grills.
- Install storm shutters to protect your windows from high winds and debris.
- Ensure your home is properly insulated and all windows and doors are sealed.
- Ensure your flashlights have fresh batteries and that you have candles for backup.
- Cut and haul away dangerous tree limbs.
- Clean and stock to prepare your "safe room" so there's plenty of room and supplies for everyone.
- Create an emergency plan and ensure each family member knows it.
- Check your carbon monoxide and smoke detectors.
- Stock up on a few days' worth of food and plenty of water in the event of a power outage.
- Board up your windows in the event of a hurricane or tornado.
- Landscape strategically to help keep your basement clear of water damage.
- Consider purchasing a generator in the event of power outages.
- Plug electricity-powered items into surge protectors.
- Protect your furniture and drapery in the event of flooding.
- Consider installing a whole-house surge protector.
- Review your homeowner's insurance policy.

After the Storm

- Have roof professionally checked for damage.
- Check for and repair cracks in stucco to prevent water damage.
- Use a heavy-duty shop vac to remove any standing water underneath carpeting pads.
- Shut off your water supply and electricity in the event of water damage.
- Examine your HVAC unit for any damage.
- Evaluate home electronics for damage in the event of a power surge.
- Spray for mosquitoes in order to enjoy your backyard.
- Completely and safely remove any mold that may have appeared before applying new paint to your home's exterior.
- Check your home, decks and fences for any damaged or rotting wood. Replace immediately to maintain the structure's integrity.

Use this checklist to help prepare your family and home for any storm you'll face. Just remember to do what works best for you. If you need a helping hand, contact any of the Neighborly home service brands for results you can trust.

