

■ Good Hands® Advice

Tips to help you be prepared and informed



windstorms

Catastrophic events caused by wind can strike at any time. Canada ranks second in the world in terms of frequency of tornadoes, with an average of 80 tornadoes each year. On average, Atlantic Canada is threatened by three tropical storms per year. Knowing what to do and how to prepare will help protect you, your family and home.

Be Safe During a Windstorm

If you are indoors:

- The basement, storm cellar or lowest level of the home is safest. If there is no basement, go to a closet, a bathroom or under a staircase.
- Stay away from windows and doors.
- Move under a sturdy piece of furniture, such as a workbench or a heavy table. Hold onto the furniture with one hand. Use the other arm to protect your head and neck from falling or flying objects.

If you are outdoors:

- Try to find shelter indoors. If there is no shelter, lie down in a ditch or ravine. Use your arms to protect your head and neck.
- Stay away from bridges and overpasses.

If you are in a vehicle:

- Never try to outrun a tornado. Tornadoes can change direction suddenly, lift up the vehicle and toss it through the air.
- Immediately stop the vehicle and turn off the engine.
- Get out of the vehicle and seek shelter in a building, ditch or ravine.

Protect Your Home

Insure your home and make sure you have the proper coverage.

Plan ahead with the creation of an emergency preparedness plan and kit.

Window glass will shatter if the glass breaks. Consider covering windows with protective film or installing impact-resistant windows and/or storm shutters.

Garage doors are highly susceptible to wind damage because of their size and relative weakness. A qualified inspector can determine if the door and the track system can resist high winds. Consider installing permanent wood or metal stiffeners to strengthen the door.

Roofs are one of the most important and vulnerable parts of your home. Have your roof professionally inspected and keep it well maintained.

Walls need to be properly anchored to the foundation. A professional, such as a qualified contractor, can determine if wall joints need retrofitting. If your house has more than one storey it is important that the upper storey wall framing is firmly connected to the lower framing. The best time to do this is when you renovate.

Outdoor - high velocity winds can turn garden furniture, barbecues and tree branches into destructive missiles. Keep the area surrounding your home clear of any objects that heavy winds could blow around. Seek professional assistance to ensure any outbuildings will be safe in high winds.

For more information about windstorm preparedness, visit goodhandsadvice.ca, contact your local Allstate Insurance Agency or call 1-800-allstate.

The information in this sheet is from the following sources: ICLR.org, Getprepared.gc.ca, The Home Owners Fire Smart Manual, goodhandsadvice.ca

Good Hands® claims service available 24/7

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facts

Tornadoes

A tornado is a violently rotating column of high winds extending between a thundercloud and the surface of the earth. Tornadoes happen across Canada and occur frequently in the Prairie provinces and Ontario.

Did You Know?

- Severe tornadoes are the most violent storms on earth.
- They have the highest wind speeds of any weather phenomenon, exceeding 600 km/h.
- They can sweep along the ground at high speeds, up to nearly 100 km/h, and can leave a long, wide path of destruction.
- The severity of a windstorm ranges from home damage to fatalities.
- May to September are the prime tornado months, with peak season in June and early July. Most tornadoes occur in the afternoon and early evening.
- The typical tornado first appears as a rotation in a thunder cloud, behind a shroud of heavy rain or hail. The sky can turn green, yellow or black. The tornado descends as a violently rotating funnel cloud and has extremely loud sounds similar to the rumble of a freight train or a jet.
- Most tornadoes look like a violently twisting funnel cloud, but some may look more like a large, low-lying cloud, a large rain shaft or even smoke from a fire.

Hurricanes

The international term used to describe a severe storm at sea is a tropical cyclone. The most powerful tropical cyclones in the Atlantic Ocean and near North America in the Pacific Ocean are called hurricanes. In Canada, hurricanes most greatly impact the Atlantic provinces.

Did You Know?

- About 30% of insurance losses around the world are related to tropical cyclones.
- In Canada alone, tropical cyclones have claimed more than 600 lives since 1900.
- Hurricanes generally move slowly and batter communities for several hours.
- The most destructive effect of a hurricane is usually the storm surge, which often causes serious flooding.

Be prepared. Be safe.

