



Storms and high winds

What to do before, during and after a named storm or spell of high winds. Print it and keep it with your kit.

Before (preparation)

- Follow **Met Office warnings** and know what they mean: **yellow** (be aware), **amber** (be prepared) and **red** (take action — danger to life).
 - Keep a **torch** and a **battery or wind-up radio** somewhere fixed that everyone in the home knows about.
 - Charge your **mobile and a power bank**, and keep a little **cash** in case card machines go down.
 - Secure or bring in **garden furniture, bins, trampolines and loose items** that the wind could throw about.
 - Check the **roof, fences, aerials and chimney** for anything loose, and clear gutters and drains while it is safe to do so.
 - Park the car **away from trees, walls and the sea front**, and have the contact number for your network operator to hand.
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During the storm

1. **Stay indoors and away from windows.** Keep clear of large windows and external doors, and stay in the most sheltered part of the home if the wind is severe.
2. **Avoid travel** unless it is essential. If you must drive, slow down, keep both hands on the wheel and watch for fallen branches, debris and high-sided vehicles.
3. **Keep well clear of fallen power lines.** Never touch or go near them, and assume they are live. Keep others and pets away too.
4. **Listen to local radio** on your battery or wind-up set for official updates from the Met Office and your local authority.
5. **Stay off the coast and away from the sea front.** Waves and spray can sweep people off harbour walls and promenades.
6. **Report a power cut by calling 105.** It is free and connects you to your network operator wherever you are in Great Britain.

If it lasts

- If the power is off, **keep the fridge and freezer closed** and ration your phone battery for essential calls.
 - Check on **older or vulnerable neighbours**, especially anyone living alone or relying on electrical medical equipment.
 - Find out whether your council has opened a **rest centre** or support point, and follow advice on the gov.uk Prepare pages.
 - In an emergency where there is danger to life, call **999**.
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After

- Wait until the Met Office warning has **cleared** before going outside to inspect or tidy up.
- Check your home for **damage** from a safe distance, and report dangerous structures, fallen trees or lines to the relevant service.
- Replace anything you used** from your kit — batteries, torch, power bank charge — and note what was missing for next time.

Safety: never run a petrol or diesel generator, barbecue or any fuel-burning appliance indoors or in an enclosed space such as a garage or porch. They give off carbon monoxide, a colourless, odourless gas that can cause serious or fatal poisoning.

Get your home ready for the next storm

The planner sizes your kit by people and days.

emergencykitlab.co.uk/planner