

What to do during and after a storm or severe weather

- Stay listening to your local ABC Radio station for storm updates
- Search for BOM storm warnings in your location on the ABC Emergency incident map.
- Check your local BOM radar to see where the storm is now.
- Stay indoors and keep away from windows while storm conditions are severe.
- Unplug your modem. If lightning strikes a node, it causes an electrical surge inside the house
- Keep your emergency kit handy in case you lose power.
- Drive very slowly and turn on your headlights if you're out on the road. Look out for hazards like downed power lines, fallen trees or branches.
- Never drive into water over roads.

After a storm

- Stay safe — Keep listening to your local ABC Radio station for updates and information on road closures or hazards in your area.
- Keep clear of water — Stay clear of creeks, drains and other waterways in case of flooding.
- Watch out — Be careful of damaged powerlines; stay at least two bus-lengths away.
- Think about food safety — If you've lost power, find out how long it's likely to be out and make a plan for keeping your food safe to eat.
- Don't go sightseeing — Checking out damage in the street could hamper the efforts of emergency services.
- Check on your neighbours — Wait until it's safe to do this.

Record everything – for insurance claims

- Make a list — Write down everything that's damaged including the make, model and year of purchase and serial number.
- Gather evidence — Take photos and video anything that's damaged.
- Be thorough — Check all of your land and property, from your fences to your gutters.

Cleaning up after flooding

- Assume floodwater is contaminated — Anything that came into contact with floodwater is probably contaminated. There is a risk that sewage overflow may have also occurred.
- Keep pets and children safe — Keep them away from contaminated areas until the areas have been properly cleaned.
- Dry out as soon as possible — Open doors and windows to increase ventilation and remove dampness.
- Clean and sanitise — Wash all hard surfaces (floors, walls, benches), utensils and crockery and outdoor play equipment. Use hot water and household detergent, disinfect with a bleach based sanitiser and do a final rinse with clean water.
- If in doubt, throw it out — Clean all absorbent household materials (mattresses, furniture, rugs, linen, children's soft toys). If items cannot be cleaned, throw them out.
- Get rid of mould — If mould is present, use a household detergent or a white vinegar solution.
- If yards are contaminated with mud from flash flooding, let the mud dry out before using the yard.

Tree and debris removal

- **Call the SES on 132 500** for help removing downed trees blocking access to your home or if it's possible a tree could fall and damage your home or injure someone.
- If trees are down over roads, call the **Strathbogie Shire Council on 1800 065 993** for tree removal