



Damage to your home from severe thunderstorms can occur from lightning, hail, high winds, even tornadoes or flash flooding. Prepare your home before the storm, to minimize the impact.

Before a Severe Storm

- **Pick a safe place in your home to gather during a thunderstorm.**
 - This should be a place where there are no windows, skylights, or glass doors, which could be broken by strong winds or hail and cause damage or injury.
- **Identify potential hazards on your property.**
 - Know how to turn off electrical power, gas and water supplies.
 - Secure unstable materials that are outside your home (e.g., patio furniture, fuel tanks).
 - Remove dead or rotting trees and branches that could fall and cause injury or damage.
- **Prepare your home.**
 - Shutter windows and secure outside doors.
 - Keep your roof clean and free of debris regularly and check for loose shingles or leaks on a regular basis.
 - Make sure there is proper drainage around your home to help reduce the possibility of flooding.
 - Consider having a lightning protection system installed.
 - Install surge protectors to protect electronic equipment.
- **Safeguard your possessions.**
 - Create a room-by-room inventory of your possessions, include receipts and photos.
 - Keep these lists in a secure place (e.g., safe deposit box).
 - Review your insurance coverage.

During a Severe Storm

- **Stay informed.**
 - Listen to the radio or television about the situation.
- **If a WARNING is issued – Seek shelter immediately.**
- **Avoid hazards in your home.**
 - Avoid corded telephones and metal; telephone lines and metal pipes can conduct electricity.
 - Unplug appliances and other electrical items such as computers and turn off air conditioners. Power surges from lightning can cause serious damage to equipment.
 - Draw blinds and shades over windows to prevent glass (if high winds break the windows) from shattering into your home.

After a Severe Storm

- **Assess the situation.**
 - Check the area for downed power lines; if found, notify your electric company immediately.
 - Check for power outages.
- **Cleanup safely.**
 - During cleanup, wear sturdy shoes or boots, long sleeves, and gloves to protect your body from injury.
 - Stay away from downed power lines and report them immediately.
 - Be aware of hazards that may cause injury to you or others cleaning up (e.g., chain saws, electrical or chemical hazards).
 - Clear broken tree branches away, but use caution, downed or damaged power lines can send electrical currents through tree branches and metal fences.

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