

# Are you Cyclone Ready?

(Adapted from the checklist found at [www.bom.gov.au/cyclone/about/checklist.shtml](http://www.bom.gov.au/cyclone/about/checklist.shtml))

## Before CYCLONE SEASON:-

- Check that the walls, roof and eaves of your home are secure.
- Trim treetops and branches well clear of your home (get council permission).
- Fit shutters, or at or at least metal screens, to all glass areas.
- Clear your property of loose material that could blow about and possibly cause injury or damage.
- Start your Generator to ensure it is working properly. Practice the procedure for starting your Generator Changeover Switch (if installed).
- Know your nearest safe high ground and the safest access route to it (in case of a storm surge/tide warning)
- Prepare an emergency kit containing:
  - a first aid kit and manual;
  - masking tape for windows;
  - waterproof bags;
  - a portable battery radio, torch and spare batteries;
  - water containers;
  - dried or canned food and a can opener;
  - matches, fuel lamp, portable stove, cooking gear, eating utensils; and
  - a list of emergency phone numbers.
- Check neighbours, especially if recent arrivals, to make sure they are prepared.

## When a CYCLONE WATCH is issued:-

- Ensure ALL household members know where the strongest part of the house is and what to do in the event of a cyclone warning or an evacuation. Practice
- Check that neighbours are aware of the situation and are preparing.
- Re-check your property for any loose material.
- Tie down (or fill with water) all large, relatively light items such as boats and rubbish bins.
- Fill vehicles' fuel tanks and water containers
- Start your Generator to ensure it is working properly. Practice the procedure for starting your Generator Changeover Switch (if installed).
- Check your emergency kit.
- Tune to your local radio/TV for further information and warnings.

## When a CYCLONE WARNING is issued:-

- Pack an evacuation kit (to be taken with your emergency kit):-
  - warm clothes,
  - essential medications,
  - baby formula and nappies,
  - a supply of cash (no electricity = no ATMs)
  - valuables, important papers, photos and mementos in waterproof bags
- Secure large/heavy valuables in a strong cupboard.
- Start your Generator to ensure it is working properly. Practice the procedure for starting your Generator Changeover Switch (if installed).
- Put wooden or plastic outdoor furniture in your pool or inside with other loose items.
- Close shutters or board-up or heavily tape all windows. Draw curtains and lock doors.

- If requested by local authorities, collect children from school or childcare centre and go home.
- Park vehicles under solid shelter (hand brake on and in gear).
- Fill bath and laundry tubs with water.

### On WARNING OF LOCAL EVACUATION

Based on predicted wind speeds and storm surge heights, evacuation may be necessary.

Official advice will be given on local radio/TV regarding safe routes and when to move.

- Lock doors; turn off power, gas, and water; take your evacuation and emergency kits.
- Wear strong shoes (not thongs) and tough clothing for protection.
- If evacuating inland (out of town), take pets and leave early to avoid heavy traffic, flooding and wind hazards.
- If evacuating to a public shelter or higher location, follow police and State/Territory Emergency Services directions. Take bedding needs and books or games for children. Leave pets protected and with food and water.

### WHEN THE CYCLONE STRIKES

- Remain indoors (with your pets). Stay tuned to your local radio/TV for further information.
- Disconnect all electrical appliances.
- Listen to your battery radio for updates.
- Stay inside and shelter (well clear of windows) in the strongest part of the building, i.e. cellar, internal hallway or bathroom. Keep evacuation and emergency kits with you.
- If the building starts to break up, protect yourself with mattresses, rugs or blankets under a strong table or bench or hold onto a solid fixture, e.g. a water pipe.
- Beware the calm 'eye'. If the wind drops, don't assume the cyclone is over; violent winds will soon resume from another direction. Wait for the official 'all clear'.
- If driving, stop (handbrake on and in gear) - but well away from the sea and clear of trees, power lines and streams. **STAY IN THE VEHICLE.**

### AFTER THE CYCLONE

- Do NOT make unnecessary telephone calls.
- Stay inside until officially advised it is safe.
- Listen to local radio for official warnings and advice.
- Check for gas leaks.
- Do NOT use electric appliances if wet.
- If you have to evacuate, or did so earlier, do NOT return until advised. Use a recommended route and do NOT rush.
- Beware of damaged power lines, bridges, buildings, trees, and do NOT enter floodwaters.
- Heed all warnings and do NOT go sightseeing. Check/help neighbours instead.

Note: Managers of resorts, hotels, motels, and caravan parks should take steps to ensure visitors are aware of the dangers and know what to do in the event of a cyclone. Free Protecting Caravans information is available from your State/Territory Emergency Service.