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# Storm Damage

A guide to help protect your home.

**A storm is described by the Met Office as a violent atmospheric disturbance and the associated wind speeds are defined on the Beaufort wind scale as being in excess of 55 miles per hour (also commonly known as 'Force 10').\***

## How can I help protect my block from storm damage?

- Check your chimney, roof and pointing are in good condition.
- Check your aerial and satellite dishes are secure.
- Secure any loose fence panels and gates.
- Cut down any loose or overhanging branches in your garden, but check the tree isn't protected by your local authority first.
- Keep gutters free of debris.
- Check that any brackets are fixed securely to the fascia board. This work can involve a ladder and so if you do not feel comfortable get a professional to help.

## What should you do when a storm is imminent?

- Ensure all garden furniture, children's play equipment, and any other loose objects are stored or secured to the ground.
- In the event of a thunderstorm, unplug electrical items to limit the risk of lightning damage.
- Close and securely fasten doors and windows, garage doors, and loft trapdoors.

- If possible park vehicles in a garage. If not park them away from trees, walls, fences, or buildings.
- Stay indoors and do not attempt to repair damage outside while the storm is in progress.

These are just some useful ideas and do not guarantee a claim will be paid if all actions taken. If you have any concerns at all about property maintenance, you should seek advice from a trusted local tradesman.

\*["Beaufort Wind Force Scale," Met Office.](#)

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