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# Tornado

What to do before, during, and after a tornado. Print it and keep it with your kit.

## Before (preparation)

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- Know the difference: a **tornado watch** means conditions are favorable, so stay alert; a **tornado warning** means one has been spotted or shows on radar, so take shelter now.
  - Pick your **safe room ahead of time**: a basement or storm cellar, or the lowest-level interior room with no windows, such as a bathroom or closet.
  - Sign up for **local alerts and enable Wireless Emergency Alerts** on your phone, and keep a battery or hand-crank radio for warnings.
  - Keep **sturdy shoes, work gloves, and a flashlight** with your kit so you can move safely through debris afterward.
  - Charge your **phone and power banks**, and keep important documents and medications easy to grab.
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## During

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1. **When a warning is issued, go to your safe place immediately.** Move to a basement or the lowest-level interior room, away from windows and exterior walls.
2. **Put as many walls between you and the outside as you can.** An interior bathroom, closet, or hallway on the lowest floor is best.
3. **Cover your head and neck** with your arms, and get under sturdy furniture or a mattress to protect against falling debris.
4. **If you are in a mobile home, get out** and go to a sturdy building or a designated shelter; mobile homes are not safe in a tornado.
5. **Do not try to outrun a tornado in a car.** If caught outside with no shelter, follow current National Weather Service guidance for your situation.
6. **Stay sheltered until the warning ends** and you get the all-clear from the National Weather Service or local officials.

## After

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- Watch for gas leaks.** If you smell gas or hear hissing, leave at once, don't use switches or flames, and report it. Call 911 for emergencies.
  - Stay away from downed or hanging power lines** and damaged buildings; assume every line is live and dangerous.
  - Move carefully through debris** wearing sturdy shoes and gloves; broken glass, nails, and sharp metal are common after a tornado.
  - Photograph any **damage for your insurance** before cleaning up, and restock whatever you used from your kit.
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**Safety:** never run a generator, grill, or any fuel-burning device indoors, in a garage, or near windows. They give off carbon monoxide, an odorless, invisible gas that can be deadly. Keep generators outside and far from doors and

vents.

## Get ready for tornado season in your area

The planner sizes your kit by people and days.

[emergencykitlab.com/planner](https://emergencykitlab.com/planner)