



# Tornado Preparedness Checklist

Don't wait for the sirens or phone alerts. Use this checklist to prepare now for a potential tornado to keep you and your family as safe as possible.



- Pick a safe space** – Designate a safe spot in a basement or lower level away from all windows. Stock with heavy blankets or an old mattress for added protection from flying debris. If you're in a mobile home, know where the nearest underground shelter or sturdy permanent structure is.

Hold a practice drill at least once a year. Make sure your family also knows where to go during a tornado if they're not at home.



- Consider a [safe room](#)** – These are specially built rooms and storm shelters that can offer you even more peace of mind.



- Create survival and first aid kits** – Include non-perishable foods, bottled water, flashlight, batteries, phone chargers, first aid supplies, medicines, etc. Keep these kits in your safe space if possible.



- Create an emergency folder** – Collect contact info for friends and family, insurance info, and vital documents like passports, birth certificates, and marriage licenses. Store in a locked, safe place like a fire box, safe, or safety deposit box.



- Create a [home inventory](#)** – A detailed inventory of your personal property can help ensure you have enough coverage for it, and it will make filing a claim a lot easier too.



- Schedule an insurance review** – If you're a homeowner, talk with your insurance agent to make sure your home is [covered for its replacement cost value](#).



- Watch or warning** – Know the difference between a tornado watch and a tornado warning so you can act accordingly.



- Know how to spot a tornado** – Watch for a rotating, funnel-shaped cloud, an approaching cloud of debris, or a loud roar that's similar to a freight train.



- Tune in** – When severe weather is on the way, stay updated with your [NOAA radio station](#) or your local news.