

Storm Prep Checklist for DFW Homes

Protect your home from thunderstorms, tornadoes, hail & ice

Dallas-Fort Worth faces severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, hail, ice storms, and extreme heat. This checklist helps you prepare your home and family for the storms that hit North Texas hardest.

Before Storm Season (Do This NOW)

	Install a whole-home surge protector at your electrical panel <i>One lightning strike can destroy every appliance in your home. Cost: \$250–\$500 installed</i>
	Locate and label your main electrical panel breaker (master shutoff)
	Locate and label your main water shutoff valve
	Locate and label your gas shutoff valve (and keep a wrench nearby)
	Test your backup power: generator, battery backup, or UPS <i>Fuel up generators and test them quarterly</i>
	Trim trees away from power lines and your home's roof
	Secure loose outdoor items (furniture, trampolines, grills)
	Install storm-rated garage door braces (garage doors are the #1 failure point in high winds)
	Photograph every room and valuable item for insurance documentation
	Review your homeowner's insurance policy for storm and flood coverage
	Program emergency contacts in your phone: electrician, plumber, insurance agent

Severe Thunderstorm / Tornado Warning

	Move to an interior room on the lowest floor (closet, bathroom, hallway)
	Stay away from windows, exterior walls, and doors
	Unplug sensitive electronics (or rely on surge protector)
	Do NOT use corded phones during lightning
	Fill bathtub with water (emergency supply if water is disrupted)

Storm Prep Checklist for DFW Homes

Protect your home from thunderstorms, tornadoes, hail & ice

If you hear a freight-train roar or see a funnel: take cover immediately

Get under a heavy table or mattress, protect your head

Monitor NOAA Weather Radio or local news for updates

After the Storm — Damage Assessment

Do NOT enter standing water — it may be electrically charged

Drowned power lines can energize water, metal fences, and the ground around them

Check for gas leaks: if you smell gas, leave immediately and call 911

Do not flip any switches or use your phone inside

Check electrical panel for tripped breakers or scorch marks

Inspect roof for missing shingles, dents, or punctures

Check all windows for cracks or broken seals

Document ALL damage with photos and video before any cleanup

Contact insurance company within 24 hours

Check outdoor electrical fixtures, outlets, and wiring for damage

Inspect trees for hanging branches near power lines (call Oncor, don't DIY)

Test all GFCI outlets

Run water briefly to check for pipe damage or discoloration

Ice Storm / Winter Freeze Prep

Insulate all exposed pipes (attic, garage, exterior walls)

Open cabinet doors under sinks on exterior walls

Allows warm air to reach pipes

Drip faucets on exterior walls during hard freezes (below 28°F)

Keep thermostat at 55°F+ even when away from home

Storm Prep Checklist for DFW Homes

Protect your home from thunderstorms, tornadoes, hail & ice

	Disconnect and drain garden hoses, cover outdoor faucets
	Stock emergency supplies: water (1 gal/person/day for 3 days), flashlights, batteries, blankets
	Fill car with gas before the storm (gas stations lose power too)
	Charge all devices and portable battery packs fully
	If power goes out: keep refrigerator/freezer closed <i>Fridge stays cold 4 hours, freezer 48 hours if full</i>
	Use generators OUTSIDE ONLY — never in a garage, even with the door open

Extended Power Outage Plan

	Report outage to Oncor: (888) 313-4747 or oncor.com
	Turn off and unplug major appliances to prevent surge damage when power returns
	Leave one light switch ON so you know when power is restored
	Use flashlights, not candles (fire risk)
	If using a generator: connect appliances directly, NEVER backfeed into panel <i>Backfeeding can kill utility workers and cause house fires. Use a transfer switch.</i>
	Check on elderly or vulnerable neighbors
	If pipes freeze: shut off main water supply immediately
	Do NOT use your oven or stove for heating <i>Carbon monoxide risk — this kills people every freeze event</i>

EMERGENCY CONTACTS — Keep This On Your Fridge

Storm Prep Checklist for DFW Homes

Protect your home from thunderstorms, tornadoes, hail & ice

911 — Life-threatening emergencies
Oncor Power Outage: (888) 313-4747
Atmos Gas Emergency: (866) 322-8667
Dallas Water Utilities: (214) 651-1441
Poison Control: (800) 222-1222
MetroPlex Pros (Electrical Emergency): (682) 466-2130

Schedule Your Free Assessment

Call (682) 466-2130 or visit metroplexpros.com/contact

Licensed & Insured | Free On-Site Estimates | Serving All of DFW