

# 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)

<input type="checkbox"/>	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>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Locate and label your main electrical panel breaker (master shutoff)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Locate and label your main water shutoff valve
<input type="checkbox"/>	Locate and label your gas shutoff valve (and keep a wrench nearby)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Test your backup power: generator, battery backup, or UPS <i>Fuel up generators and test them quarterly</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Trim trees away from power lines and your home's roof
<input type="checkbox"/>	Secure loose outdoor items (furniture, trampolines, grills)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Install storm-rated garage door braces (garage doors are the #1 failure point in high winds)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Photograph every room and valuable item for insurance documentation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Review your homeowner's insurance policy for storm and flood coverage
<input type="checkbox"/>	Program emergency contacts in your phone: electrician, plumber, insurance agent

## Severe Thunderstorm / Tornado Warning

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

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	If you hear a freight-train roar or see a funnel: take cover immediately <i>Get under a heavy table or mattress, protect your head</i>
	Monitor NOAA Weather Radio or local news for updates

## After the Storm — Damage Assessment

	Do NOT enter standing water — it may be electrically charged <i>Downed power lines can energize water, metal fences, and the ground around them</i>
	Check for gas leaks: if you smell gas, leave immediately and call 911 <i>Do not flip any switches or use your phone inside</i>
	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 <i>Allows warm air to reach pipes</i>
	Drip faucets on exterior walls during hard freezes (below 28°F)
	Keep thermostat at 55°F+ even when away from home

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	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**

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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](https://metroplexpros.com/contact)

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