



HIA Checklist – securing sites for cyclonic weather

In Queensland, where weather conditions can swiftly turn from clear skies to extreme events, residential builders should consider comprehensive preparation to protect their worksites.

The Bureau of Meteorology issues Severe Weather Warnings whenever severe weather is occurring in an area or is expected to develop or move into an area. Warnings are issued depending on the weather situation can and range from one to two hours or sometimes days.

Therefore, it is essential that you are aware of the types of severe weather that typically affect your region and the lead-times associated with each. For example, in North Queensland one can expect three stages of warnings when a tropical cyclone is active in the region. The first type of warning, an 'Information Bulletin' is issued when the cyclone is anywhere from 7 days to 48 hours from landfall. It's during this time that building sites should be prepared for the tropical cyclone.

HIA have developed this simple checklist to assist members navigating the considerations when securing a work site ahead of a severe weather event.

- Perform a site clean, removing any uninstalled materials and rubbish. Items such as roof sheeting, formwork, windows etc. should be removed from the site (if not installed).
- Get skip bins emptied and check with the supplier if they should be removed from site or tied down in the event of a cyclone. Loose items can become projectiles during storms & cyclones.
- Remove Portaloo's from site.
- Turn off power, gas, and water supply to the premises.
- Ensure sediment control measures are in place. Divert surface water away from foundations and neighboring properties.
- Site fencing should be braced in accordance with supplier recommendations.
- Scaffold should be checked, ensuring supports will not be affected by water runoff. Consult with your supplier to determine if extra lateral support is required.
- Delay delivery of any new materials until after the severe weather event has passed.
- Brace or core-fill concrete masonry walls. Refer to WorkSafe Queensland's guide on [Masonry wall safety](#).
- Ensure framed areas are braced adequately.
- Close and/or brace windows (if installed) to adequately protect internal elements of the building.

HIA resources

Additional information sheets are also available for download.

[Clean up after cyclones storms and floods](#)

[Water ingress caused by severe weather](#)

[Storms - Leaving frames exposed to the Weather](#)

[Returning to flood affected areas](#)

[BOM Warnings for Queensland](#)

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[Queensland Local Government Disaster Dashboards](#)