Preparing your property for wild weather

Te whakarite whare mō ngā whakawhiu huarere



WELLINGTON REGION EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Absolutely Positively Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

Prepare for any kind of weather

Me whakarite mō ngā kātū huarere katoa

Being prepared for unexpected events is key to protecting yourself, your home, and your community. Simple actions like creating an emergency plan, gathering essential supplies, and preparing your home can help you to protect the people and things you love.

Wellington is well known for its wild weather! Make sure you're ready in case severe weather hits your area. It's good to plan for what you will need to do to make your property safe in severe weather.

As sea levels rise and weather events become more extreme, our daily lives will be challenged. Flooding, coastal inundation and landslips are likely to become more common, and so it's important that we each take action to become better prepared





Storms and flooding
Ngā āwhā me ngā waipuke

Floods present a high risk due to the damage they can cause. Flooding can occur when heavy rainfall overwhelms blocked drainage systems and inadequate runoff channels, causing streams and street gutters to overflow.

Coastal flooding will worsen over time as sea levels rise – see the link below for more information.



Landslides
Ngā horowhenua

Landslides can be triggered by heavy rainfall, earthquakes, poor drainage, and vegetation loss. Climate change is increasing the frequency and severity of these events.

Areas with steep slopes, poor soil stability, or previous slip history are particularly vulnerable.

Discover practical ways to make your home safer and better prepared for the future. For more information see this **House Preparedness Guidance**:

https://www.wremo.nz/get-ready/home-ready/

For more information see this Severe Weather Guidance: https://www.wremo.nz/hazards/severe-weather/

Find out if your property has natural hazard risks

Tirohia mena he tūraru māori kei tō papanoho



Find out if your property is at risk from flooding on **Wellington City Council's Flood Map**.

Coastal flooding and sea level rise **hazard maps** are available here:

letstalk.wellington.govt.nz/climate-action-info-hub/know-your-risks



The information shown on these maps is available for everyone to see. You may also request a **Land Information Memorandum** (LIM) report for your property.

https://wellington.govt.nz/property-rates-and-building/property/reports/lim

Flood and other hazard modelling is updated periodically, so we recommend checking back regularly to see if the information about your property has changed.



Consider the risks to your property:
Whakaarotia ngā tūraru ki tō papanoho:

- is the area near your home flood-prone?
- is your home in a low-lying coastal area?
- is your home near a stream or river?
- is your home at the bottom of a steep hill, road, or driveway?
- do you see water flowing overland within (or near) your property?
- is your home in an urban area with a lot of hard surfaces (e.g. concrete, asphalt) that can't absorb water?
- have changes have been made to the land nearby that obstruct the flow of stormwater?

Strong wind
Ngā hau pūkeri

If your property and surrounding area are exposed to strong winds, it's important to understand how this risk could impact structures, vegetation, and safety.

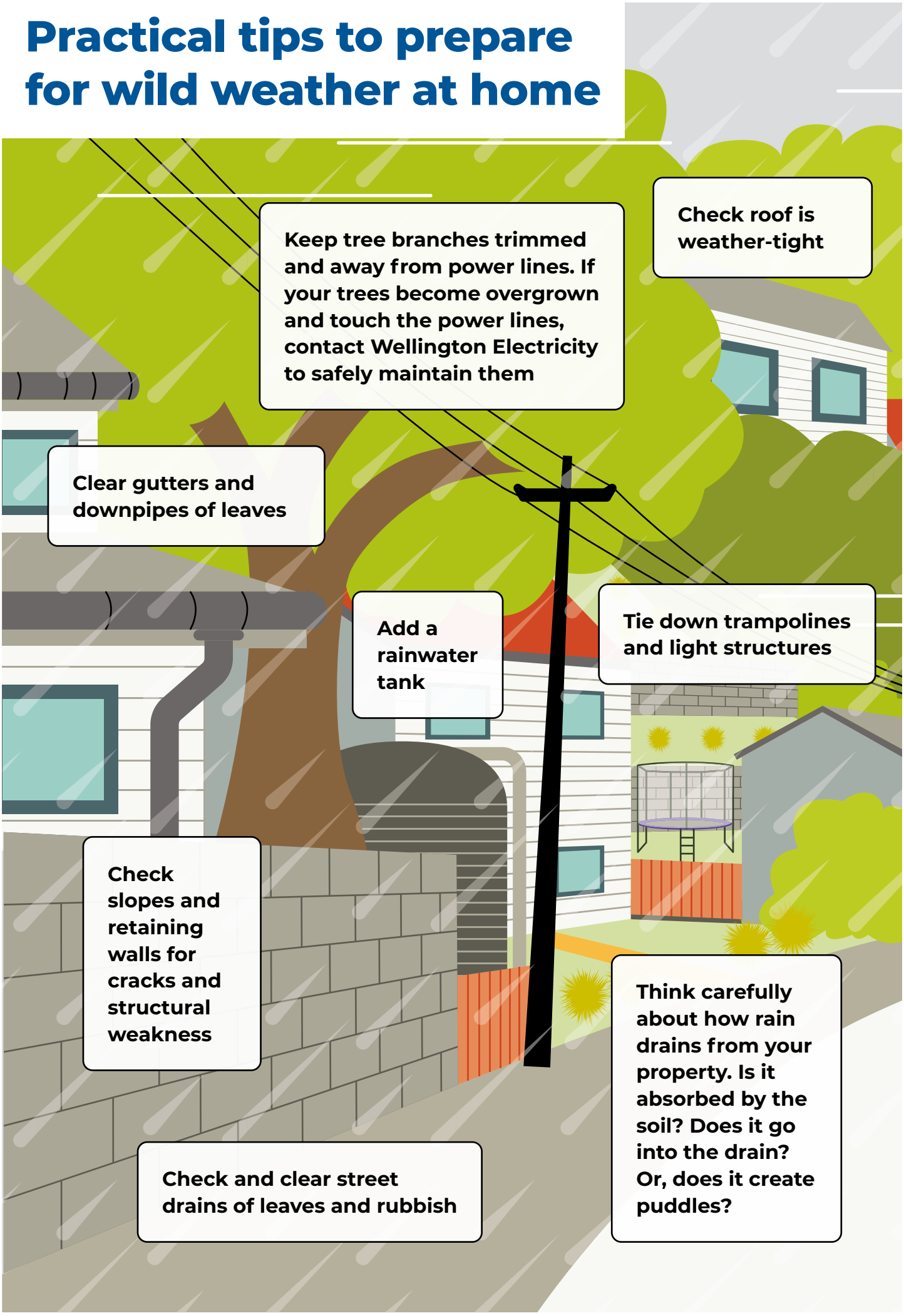
civildefence.govt.nz/cdem-sector/consistent-messages/storms-and-severe-weather/reduction-reduce-the-impacts-of-storms

Make your home safer
Whakahaumarutia ake tō kāinga

We can't predict wild weather, but we can prepare for it. One of the best places to start is with your home.

https://getready.govt.nz/prepared/household

Practical tips to prepare for wild weather at home




Plants can help to stabilise soil and prevent landslips. Check and trim old trees to reduce the risk of branches breaking in high winds
Have a household emergency plan and connect with your neighbours
Remove loose items from around your property to prevent movement in strong winds
Lift valuable items off the floor or into plastic boxes in low-lying places like the garage

Are you living in a rental?
He mea rēti rānei tō kāinga?

Your landlord is usually responsible for maintaining the property and building. It's good to clarify these responsibilities in your lease or rental agreement. You can do your part to reduce the risk of flood and property damage by storing your belongings carefully.

naturalhazards.govt.nz/be-prepared/landlords/strengthen-key-areas-of-your-rental-property/

Does your home insurance cover flood damage?
Ka kapi rānei i tō inihua whare ngā tūkinotanga waipuke?

Check that your house and contents insurance covers you for natural hazards impacting your home. If possible, consider increasing the amount of flood-related cover you have in your policy if you're able to. You may download the Get Your Home Covered guide here:

naturalhazards.govt.nz/assets/Publications-Resources/Guide.to.natural.hazards.cover.pdf

Buying a home?
Kei te hoko whare rānei?

There are many considerations when choosing a home, such as understanding what natural hazards risks may affect your property. Review these helpful tips from the Natural Hazards Commission when you consider buying a property:

naturalhazards.govt.nz/be-prepared/home-buyers

Natural hazards information for properties is also available in Land Information Memorandum (LIM) reports from Council. A LIM is a comprehensive report that has all relevant information the Council knows about a property or section including natural hazards and climate change hazards.

wellington.govt.nz/property-rates-and-building/property/reports/lim

Emergency preparation and support for Disabled People and those with accessibility or age-related needs:

1. Know Your Needs

Consider mobility, health, and sensory needs that may affect your response during weather events.

2. Build a Support Network

Create a simple plan, including evacuation routes and medical needs.

3. Prepare Your Home

Have a safe space to shelter away from windows, secure loose items that could block routes, keep emergency lights plugged in to light your escape paths, and store essentials like medications and mobility aids in an easy-to-reach spot.

https://www.whaikaha.govt.nz/resources/support-and-services/emergency-preparation-and-support

Ways to prepare for wild weather at home

Hētehi rautaki whakarite mō te huarere kino i tō kāinga

We can't control the weather, but we can take steps to prevent flooding and property damage before the next big storm:

- If high winds are forecast, close your doors, windows, curtains and blinds. Bring pets and valuable items inside and ensure things like trampolines are secured.
- Make an emergency plan with the people in your household. Consider the needs of everyone, including your pets. Prepare a 'grab bag' so that you have bare essentials easily at hand if you need to get up and evacuate.
- Remove any rubbish or loose items from around your property that may blow away or cause damage in strong winds.
- Check and clear gutters and downpipes.
- Have a plan for power outages, especially if you rely on electricity for your medical devices. Talk with your healthcare and electricity providers to help you make a backup plan.
- Help your neighbours, friends and whānau to be prepared.

If you live near a flood zone:
Mena koe e noho pātata ana ki ngā pae waipuke:

- Move vehicles, valuable items and animals away from low areas.
- Lift valuable items off the floor if you are worried about flooding – including in low-lying sheds and garages.
- Clear leaves and rubbish that could be picked up by flood water and block drains.
- Report visible blockages in your roadside drains to council via the WCC FixIt app.

Consider your neighbours
Whakaarotia hō kiritata

When making changes to your property, consider your neighbours and avoid increasing the flood risk elsewhere.

It is illegal to intentionally re-direct stormwater that naturally flows through your property onto a neighbouring property. Water must be allowed to flow down its natural path, and any impacts must be managed by each property owner.

Property improvements to reduce impacts of wild weather

Te whakawhanake whare e māmā ake ai te karawhiu o te huarere



Use permeable surfaces for landscaping to reduce water run-off or ponding.



Fix and replace gutters and downpipes to prevent water pooling.



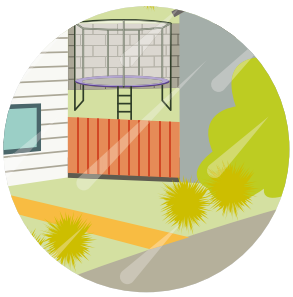
Keep trees clear of your house and/or powerlines.



Regularly inspect retaining walls and slopes for cracks or movement.



Plant on steep slopes and hills to stabilise the soil and prevent slips. Native plants are especially resilient.



Add a gap below your fence to allow water to escape.



Avoid altering natural drainage or overwatering gardens near slopes.



A rainwater tank can capture water for drier periods.

Get your home prepared for severe weather:

Te whakarite whare mō ngā whakawhiu huarere:

WREMO | Wellington Region Emergency Management Office

- wremo.nz/get-ready

- www.civildefence.govt.nz/cdem-sector/consistent-messages/storms-and-severe-weather

Toka Tū Ake | Natural Hazards Commission

- naturalhazards.govt.nz

Wellington City Council Climate Action Info Hub

- letstalk.wellington.govt.nz/climate-action-info-hub

Wellington Water

- wellingtonwater.co.nz



Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke