

SAFEGUARD YOUR HOME DURING STORM SEASON

By Positive Plumbing QLD

As storm season approaches, it's essential to take proactive steps to protect your home from the potential damage caused by heavy rain, high winds, and flooding. While most homeowners focus on securing windows and doors, one area that is often overlooked is the plumbing system. A well-maintained plumbing system can make all the difference in minimising water damage, preventing leaks, and avoiding costly repairs when storms hit.

Storms can put extra pressure on your pipes, drains, and fixtures, making it vital to ensure everything is in tip-top condition before the weather turns.

Read on to discover practical plumbing tips that will help you safeguard your home, protect your plumbing, and keep your property safe and dry throughout the storm season.



CLEAR YOUR GUTTERS AND DOWNPIPES

Blocked gutters and downpipes can cause rainwater to overflow, leading to roof damage, water pooling, and foundation weakening. Debris like leaves and twigs often clog these systems, making it hard for water to drain properly during storms.

Prevention: Regularly clean your gutters and downpipes, removing all debris to allow water to flow freely. Check for rust or damage and consider installing gutter guards to reduce future clogs. Ensure downpipes direct water away from your foundation to prevent flooding.

CHECK OUTDOOR DRAINS

Clogged outdoor drains can cause water to back up into your yard or home during heavy rainfall. Dirt, leaves, and debris often accumulate in these drains, making them inefficient when you need them most.

Prevention: Inspect and clear all outdoor drains before storm season. Remove blockages and consider professional cleaning for deep clogs. If your drains struggle during heavy rain, adding larger or extra drains can improve water flow and reduce flooding risks.



Regularly cleaning your gutters prevents water damage and keeps your home storm-ready.



INSPECT FOR LEAKS OR WEAK PIPES

Old or damaged pipes are more likely to fail under the pressure of stormwater, leading to leaks or bursts. Even minor damage can worsen during heavy rain, causing significant water damage.

Prevention: Examine exposed pipes for signs of wear, such as cracks or corrosion, and repair or replace them as needed. A professional plumber can assess hidden vulnerabilities and suggest upgrades to more durable materials like PVC or copper for added protection.

INSTALL BACKFLOW PREVENTION

Heavy storms can overwhelm sewer systems, causing wastewater to backflow into your home. This leads to unsanitary conditions and extensive damage to your plumbing system.

Prevention: A backflow prevention device blocks wastewater from entering your pipes during flooding. A licensed plumber can recommend the right device for your home and ensure it's installed correctly for maximum protection.

SECURE OUTDOOR FIXTURES

Outdoor plumbing, such as garden taps and irrigation systems, is vulnerable to storm damage. High winds and debris can easily break or loosen these fixtures, resulting in leaks or disconnections.

Prevention: Disconnect hoses and secure outdoor taps before the storm season. Check for any weak or damaged fixtures and ensure irrigation systems are tightly fastened to withstand strong winds.

Check for pipe leaks early to avoid costly damage during storm season.



LOCATE YOUR SHUT-OFF VALVE

In a plumbing emergency, knowing how to shut off your water supply can prevent extensive damage. Delays in locating or accessing the valve can worsen the situation.

Prevention: Identify your home's main water shut-off valve and ensure it's easy to access. Teach all household members how to use it, and check regularly to confirm it's in good working order.

TEST YOUR SUMP PUMP

Sump pumps are essential for preventing basement flooding, but they can fail during storms if not properly maintained. A malfunctioning sump pump leaves your home vulnerable to severe water damage.

Prevention: Test your sump pump by pouring water into the pit and ensuring it activates and drains water correctly. Repair or replace any faulty parts, and consider a battery backup system to keep the pump running during power outages.

SCHEDULE A PROFESSIONAL INSPECTION

Hidden plumbing issues can go unnoticed until they cause serious problems. Stormwater puts extra stress on your system, making even small vulnerabilities a potential hazard.

Prevention: Schedule a plumbing inspection before storm season to catch and address issues early. A professional can assess your pipes, drains, and sump pump to ensure they're storm-ready and functioning properly.



CONCLUSION

Storm season doesn't have to mean stress and costly repairs. By taking proactive steps like clearing gutters, securing outdoor fixtures, and testing sump pumps, you can protect your plumbing system and your home.

For expert advice or assistance in preparing your plumbing for storm season, reach out to Positive Plumbing QLD today.