



SAFETY TALK

Wind

A severe windstorm is one that contains gusty winds of 90 kilometers per hour or greater (Emergency Management Ontario).

Stay informed on the potential for severe winds.

Getting up-to-the-minute information is an important part of staying safe in any weather emergency.

When severe weather threatens, tune in to a NOAA Weather Radio or battery-powered radio for updates. A high wind advisory means that sustained winds of over 25 miles per hour are predicted. Thunderstorm, tornado, and hurricane warnings should be taken very seriously, as they mean that severe weather has been spotted and is on its way.

Potential Hazards

Potential Hazards to a wind event include:

- Heavy rainfall and inland flooding
- High winds
- Flying Objects
- Runaway objects (loose carts)
- Broken Glass
- Building damage
- Falling Tree Limbs
- Down Power lines

Controls for a Windstorm

It is important to stay informed by listening to the latest warnings and advisories on radio, television, or web sites. Once a wind storm warning has been issued it is important to do the following...

Wherever you are, your priority is to stay SAFE...

How to Prepare Before a Windstorm

- Ensure all loose items are secure.
- Place all racks in a secure area so they are not blowing around the parking lot and block the wheels.
- Knock all loose shelving down to the bottom level.
- Check in with your supervisor. If the weather is severe enough to prevent working outside then go home safely or take shelter within the store until the wind has subsided.
- Avoid parking directly under trees. You should park in a spot away from trees in case any branches or twigs break off during the storm and hit your vehicle.

After the Winds Have Subsided

- After the winds subside, temporarily secure damaged buildings to prevent further weather damage or injury.
- Notify your supervisor of any injuries or breakage, damage or suspected breaks to any product, structure or equipment.
- Be careful of broken glass and other sharp objects (eg. protruding nails, jagged metal edges).
- If a building sustained considerable damage from the windstorm notify your supervisor immediately and do not enter the building or garden center area until given permission to do so by Home Depot.
- Stay alert for the possibility of falling tree limbs and downed power lines.
- Once the situation is properly assessed and deemed safe, proceed with clean up as required.

Retail Safety Excellence