Inspecting your home for weather resiliency

Weather disasters can be disastrous. But preventing the damage they cause is not impossible. With a bit of planning, you can take steps to ensure that your home is ready for whatever nature throws at it.

Use this list to inspect your home and find ways you can improve its ability to withstand extreme weather. If you find any issues, we recommend getting repairs done as soon as possible and consider ways you can renovate or upgrade your home.

Looking for more resources on making your home weather resistant? Visit the **Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction** for more building tips, data and resources.

Note

This is only a starting point, not a complete inspection list for your home. Hire a qualified home inspector for a complete inspection and talk to a qualified contractor when completing any repairs or upgrades.

For more tips and tricks on preparing your home for severe weather, visit our website at sgicanada.ca/climate.

Wind	
	Is there damage to the roof, siding, windows, doors, fences, gates or other structures?
	Are trees and bushes trimmed away from structures? Are all dead branches pruned?
	Are there panels, tarps or other light objects stored where they could become windborne?
	Are sheds, tanks, trampolines, barbecues, garbage cans or bins properly anchored?
	Are home coverings such as siding and shingles wind-resistant, installed correctly and in good repair?
	Are trees and bushes planted at least 3 meters from structures?
	Do you have a safe area in your home to take shelter during a strong wind event?
Fire	
	Is there a buildup of leaves, garbage or branches on your roof, in eaves or against structures?
	Are trees and bushes pruned well away from structures?
	Are lawns kept mowed short?
	Is landscaping non-flammable within 3 meters of structures?
	Are there flammables, like wood or lumber, stored against or under structures?
	Are non-flammable screens installed on windows?
	Are vent covers non-flammable with openings less than 3 mm in size?
	Are there cracks, holes or rot anywhere on structures?
	Check seals around doors, windows, vents, chimneys and utility connections for cracks or damage.
	Is the area at least 3 meters around fire pits clear and is the pit as far away from structures as possible?
	Are the fire hydrants in your community clear of obstructions?
	Is there a clear separation of at least 3 meters between wood or plastic fences and your other structures?
	Are the exterior coverings like shingles and siding made of fire-resistant materials?
Flood	
	Are eavestroughs clean, flowing and in good repair?
	Do downspouts drain at least 2 meters from your foundation towards good drainage?
	Are downspouts clean and in good repair?
	Does the grading around structures direct water away from foundations and towards good drainage?
	Do you have rain barrels installed and do they overflow towards good drainage?
	Are utility connections well sealed?
	Are septic tanks, fuel tanks and water tanks well anchored?
	If you have a well or septic tank, does it have a properly fitting cap that is in good condition?
	Does your landscaping allow for proper drainage and water absorption? Does water collect anywhere?
	Does flood infrastructure like drains, catch basins and drainage ditches in your area work properly?

	Are utilities such as your furnace, water heater, generator and ducting installed above flood levels?
	Do you have a sump pump installed? Does it operate correctly?
	Do you have a sewer backflow valve installed on your sewer line? Does it operate correctly?
	Do you have backup power like a generator or power bank? Is it connected to sump pumps? Is it fuelled, charged and operating properly?
	Do you have a water alarm installed in your basement or low areas of your property?
	Is your electrical system protected with ground fault interrupters?
	Does your home have weeping tile installed around the foundation?
	Is your property located on a floodplain?
	Is your area prone to floods?
	Are the flood barriers installed around utilities?
	Are building materials used in low-lying areas modular and easily replaceable?
Hail	
	Are trees and bushes trimmed away from structures? Are dead branches pruned?
	Are your gutters clean, flowing and in good repair?
	Is your roof in good condition? Are shingles broken or curling?
	Is your roof and siding built with hail-resistant materials?
	Do you have room indoors to put yard furniture, grills or other items when there is a threat of hail?
	Do you have a garage, carport or other structure to shelter vehicles during a hailstorm?
	Do you have shutters on your windows or doors?
	Do you have a high-sloped or low-sloped roof?
	Are your windows, doors and skylights built with hail-resistant materials?
Other	
	Are paths and areas around your home clear so that emergency services have easy access to your property?
	Is your home and yard well maintained (grass is cut as short as possible)?
	Are items and structures in your yard properly anchored? Do you have an interior space to store items if a storm is approaching?
	Do you have a properly stocked emergency kit? Do you have a plan for evacuation in the case of a severe weather or wildfire event?