

## Recovery After a Tornado

1. Until professionals check and inform you that your water is not contaminated, boil or chlorinate drinking water before using it. Follow guidelines in A Quick Consumer Guide to Safe Food Handling, FSHE82, for refrigerated or frozen foods. If in doubt, throw it out. Get essential food, clothing, medical care or shelter at disaster recovery stations.
2. Obtain tarpaulins, polyethylene sheets and pressurized foam insulation as quickly as possible to contain water damage or limit progressive deterioration to your home. Shingles, sheetrock, framing and concrete blocks may be helpful in making a portion of your home usable. Consult with your insurance agent about what modifications you should pursue and if, or how, they are reimbursable. Keep good records.
3. After electric and gas utilities approve reentry into a damaged building, salvaging property and making repairs need to be done safely. Do not enter a damaged building until it has been properly “shored” or restrained from further collapse. Plaster, ceilings and walls may not be secure and may collapse without much contact or force.
4. Get an expert to check your house for structural damage, some of which may not be obvious.
5. Inspect the interior of the house or building for structural damage. Using a good light, check the framing. Look for roof ridge separation, loose knee braces and loose rafters where the rafters join the walls.
5. Check clothing and blankets for fiberglass or mineral wool insulation before using. Fibers from these insulation materials can be irritating and a serious nuisance. Remove drapes and carpet to allow drying and provide access to inspect and repair structural damage.
6. Inspect the roof from the inside and outside. If you get inside the building on a sunny day and don't see leaks, get a partner to help you. Apply water with a garden hose to the roof while someone below watches for drips that indicate a roof leak.
7. During clean-up and repairs, be alert for exposed nails that may penetrate your foot. Remove or flatten these nails and wear shoes and gloves. Glass, including fiberglass insulation, can irritate or cause skin reactions on unprotected legs and arms, as well as hands and feet.
8. Use telephones only for essential communications in order to allow others to complete essential calls.