

Check your solar PV system and battery storage for damage

- If you need to shut the system down in an emergency, follow the shutdown procedures which should be on the inverter or the main switchboard. Don't turn off the system if any of its components are wet or damaged or internal wires are exposed.
- If your system has been damaged, contact a licensed electrical contractor or installer for advice before you turn it on.
- Solar PV systems will continue producing electricity when exposed to light even if the network supply is turned off or the system has been shut down. Don't touch them or any conductive material that exposed parts of the system are touching as they may also be live.
- If your battery energy storage system has been damaged, you will need to get a qualified person or installer to inspect it before using it again.

Fallen powerlines

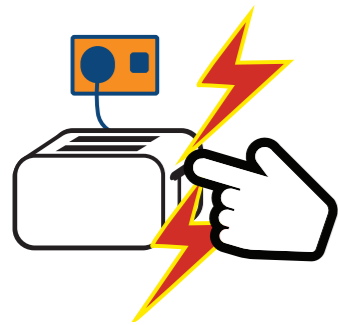
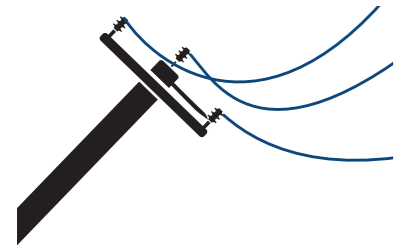
- Be careful cleaning up fallen branches and debris around your property as they could be hiding fallen or submerged powerlines. Treat any fallen or damaged powerlines as live.
- Fallen and low hanging powerlines can be hard to see, especially at night. Stay well away from them and warn others to do the same.
- Report any fallen lines to the emergency services or your electricity entity.

Cleaning up after storms and flood waters

- Switch the power off at the switchboard when using water during clean-up operations.
- It is illegal and very dangerous to use water pressure cleaners on material that contains asbestos. If you're not sure, don't risk it.
- Do not operate appliances or switches while standing in water or with bare feet.

Electric shocks

- Never touch electrical equipment (including conductive material) that has caused a shock. Prevent anyone from using it and have it checked and repaired by a licensed electrical contractor.
- If you experience tingles or shocks from an electrical appliance or taps, this means there could be an electrical problem. Call your electricity entity immediately to check out the problem. Ignoring these warning signs could lead to a much more serious electric shock.
- Never touch or attempt to rescue someone who is receiving an electric shock as you may end up receiving a shock yourself. If possible, turn off the power. Stay clear and call triple zero (000).
- Do not do your own electrical work – it's illegal and dangerous. Always use a licensed electrical contractor.
- If you see a property cordoned off with electrical hazard tape, do not approach it – it's been cordoned off for a good reason!



Get storm ready

Storms, floods and unpredictable weather are a part of life in Queensland. Be prepared this storm season and follow these tips to make sure you and your home are electrically safe.



Electrical
Safety
Office

Safety advice 13 74 66

13 12 53

1800 635 369

1300 362 128

Emergency numbers 13 16 70

13 19 62

1800 353 031





Before



Be prepared

- Ensure you have safety switches installed and test them regularly.
- Be prepared for loss of power that could last for more than one week. Ensure your mobile phone is fully charged in case you need to use it in an emergency.
- If you plan to use a generator make sure it is in good working order. You must have a changeover switch installed if you want to use it to power the wiring of your home.
- Turn off your solar power system by following the manufacturer's instructions before the storm or flood hits.
- Make sure you know how to turn your mains power off in case you need to do it in an emergency.
- Prepare an evacuation plan that includes where powerlines are on or near your property so you can avoid these while you evacuate.
- If anyone in your house relies on electrical equipment for medical reasons, you must have a plan if your power is cut – don't assume it will be restored quickly.

During



Stay safe

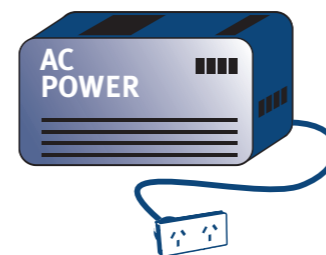
- If you've lost power, turn off your power points and unplug electrical equipment if it is safe to do so. Don't go outside during a storm to turn off power.
- Do not run electrical equipment such as generators, extension leads or lighting in wet areas.
- Some storms and floods can last for a long time. If the storm causes damage, do not attempt to make temporary electrical repairs. Turn the power off and have a licensed electrician perform the repairs after the bad weather has passed. If the power cannot be turned off, stay well away from the damaged equipment and call your electricity entity (Energex, Ergon).
- In a flood, place electrical equipment as high off the ground as possible.

After



Check your house for damage

- If your property has been damaged, you will need a licensed electrical contractor to test that your home is electrically safe before you can be reconnected. You should ask for a certificate of test once the work is completed.
- If you remove internal or external wall sheeting after a flood, be careful not to expose electrical fittings. Exposed parts on the back of power points or light switches can cause electric shock or fire.
- If your property has been flooded, make sure any electrical equipment (including plug in items) which has been in flood water is tested by a licensed electrical contractor before using it again.
- If you need to enter your ceiling space to inspect or repair, ensure the power is turned off at the main switch board before entering the space.
- Stay away from damaged or flooded service pillars and report damage to the electricity entity. Service pillars are green or beige plastic boxes which usually sit on the fence line between houses where you have underground power.
- If you have a point of attachment on your house (see diagram above), check if it's damaged or hanging off the wall or fascia. If it is damaged, it must be repaired by a licenced electrical contractor before power can be restored. Your electricity entity will ask to see paperwork (certificate of test) from this repair before they reconnect the power to your property.



Generator safety

- If the power goes out and you are using a generator make sure you follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Make sure you run generators outdoors and keep them away from open windows – including your neighbours' - so that poisonous exhaust fumes don't enter homes.
- Only use power boards with an overload cut-out switch and make sure you do not use in wet areas.

Don't use 'suicide leads'

- 'Suicide leads' are illegally made power leads that are used to connect generators to the wiring of your house. These dangerous leads have exposed parts at both ends which will cause electric shock to anyone touching them. They can also feed power into the network, which is extremely dangerous for people working on street powerlines or your neighbours' houses which they believe are not live.
- The only way to safely use a generator to power your house wiring is to use a changeover switch. A changeover switch safely supplies power from a generator to the wiring that is installed in the house. Don't turn on the changeover switch if your property has been damaged.

