

WHAT TO DO IF THERE IS A HAILSTORM

OFFICIAL UPDATES LU-Alert · RTL, 100.7 · 112

DO THIS NOW

- 1** Get inside a solid building as soon as the hail starts, and stay there until it has passed and the warning is over.
- 2** Keep away from windows, glass doors and skylights. A room in the middle of the house is safest.
- 3** Stop the car somewhere safe if you are driving, away from trees, and stay inside it until the hail passes.
- 4** Stay indoors. Do not go out to protect the car or garden while hail is falling.
- 5** Unplug electronics you do not need, and stay off the landline phone while there is lightning.
- 6** Watch the drains and the cellar. Hail and heavy rain can block gutters and send water indoors: move valuables up and read Flooding.
- 7** Call **112** for injuries or a fire, and follow LU-Alert or the radio on **RTL, 100.7** for the all-clear.

BEFORE

READ THE WARNINGS

- Hail is part of the thunderstorm warning. An orange warning can mean hailstones of **1-3 cm** or gusts of **90-110 km/h**: secure anything loose outside, keep out of the woods, and never shelter under a tree.
- A red warning can mean hailstones larger than **3 cm** or gusts above **110 km/h**: avoid travel, and stay in a building, or in a car if you are caught on the road, until the all-clear. The levels are explained on **Alerts and sirens**.

- Lightning usually comes with hail. **Storm and strong wind** explains when to take shelter from lightning and how to prepare for wind.

PREPARE THE HOME AND CAR

- When an orange or red warning is given, put the car in a garage or under cover if you can.
- Bring in garden furniture, parasols, plant pots and bins. Roll up awnings and close the shutters.

- Keep gutters, drains and the grid in front of the garage clear, so water can run away.
- Check what your home and car insurance cover for hail, and keep the papers in your household plan.

STOCK THE BASICS

- A torch, a battery or wind-up radio and a charged power bank, in case the power goes. See the **emergency kit checklist**.

AFTER

- Wait until the storm has moved on before you go out. Stay inside until **30 minutes** after the last thunder.
- Walk carefully: hail can make pavements and roads as slippery as ice.
- Look at the roof, skylights and windows from the ground. Never go on the roof: leave repairs up there to professionals.
- Cover broken windows or skylights from inside with plastic sheeting and tape, to keep the rain out.
- Clear hail out of gutters and drains you can reach safely.
- Photograph the damage to the house and car before you clear up. The insurer will ask for it.
- Check on the neighbours. If the power is out, follow **Power is out**.

IF YOU ARE...

LOOKING AFTER CHILDREN

- Keep them inside and away from the windows. The noise of hail on the roof can be frightening: tell them it will pass soon.
- If they are outside when it starts, they should go into the nearest building, not run home.

OLDER, ILL, OR LIVING WITH A DISABILITY

- Plan to stay in on warning days. Do not go out to clear hail or check the car; ask a neighbour to help once it is safe.

WITH PETS

- Bring them inside before the storm. Afterwards, watch for broken glass on the

ground.

IN A FLAT ABOVE THE THIRD FLOOR

- Clear the balcony and keep away from large balcony windows while the hail falls. Check that the balcony drain is not blocked by hail afterwards.

EASY-READ SUMMARY

 Go inside a strong building.

 Keep away from windows.

 Unplug the computer and the TV.

 Listen to the radio for news.

 Call for help if someone is hurt.

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