

How to Prepare for a Typhoon and Keep Your Family Safe

Typhoon general information

If you live in a typhoon-prone area or have lived through one, you know they can cause grave damage.

A typhoon is always dangerous and even though it sometimes changes direction last minute, it is best to prepare for the worst as you do not get a second chance when it hits.

In general, it is good practice to develop a safety mind-set if you live in a disaster-prone area.

Think of ...

- ... filling your car's gas tank when it gets half empty.
- ... taking note of evacuation signs when visiting new places.
- ... updating and check emergency kit annually.
- ... knowing the evacuation routes from place that you visit frequently.

If a typhoon is on its way, then here are some tips to be prepared and stay safe.

Before the typhoon

- Follow the news:
 - Check the latest information about the typhoon on the [NHK-World Japan website](#). NHK is Japan's Broadcasting Corporation and they set up a specific website each time a typhoon approaches Japan.
 - Download the [NHK World TV and Multilingual App](#).
 - Go to Twitter and follow [@JapanSafeTravel](#) or “#TyphoonHagibis” for updates.
 - For travel updates check [JR Central Japan Railway Company](#) and [JR East Japan Railway](#).
- Download and print maps of evacuation routes from where you will be at the time of the typhoon.
 - Print an [evacuation map](#) by Tokyo ward from the Plaza Homes website.
 - Download the [Japan Shelter Guide App](#).
 - Download the [Pocket Shelter App](#) which can be used offline.

- Install [FireChat](#), a messaging App that let you chat with loved-ones without internet.
- Prepare an emergency kit, and if you have one already check expiration dates and update your [emergency supplies](#):
 - Water for three days for all people and pets
 - Nonperishable food - check expiration dates
 - Medication
 - Warm blankets
 - Disposable toilet
 - etc.
- Prepare [“go-bags” in case you need to evacuate](#):
 - Clothing
 - Sanitation
 - Medication
 - Passport copy
 - Chargers for phones
 - Cash, including ¥10 coins to make calls in phone boots
 - Contact information family, number for your embassy and any other important phone numbers
- Prepare an [emergency kit and evacuation bag for your pets](#) too and make sure they are indoors on time.
- Fully charge phones, portable chargers and other devices.
- Fill your car’s gas tank. Not only because you might have to hit the road, but maybe more importantly to use the car’s heater or air conditioner when there is no power after the typhoon.
- Bring in outdoor plants and any objects that can be blown away by heavy winds.
- Secure large objects like bikes, outdoor furniture, laundry lines, etc.
- Close and lock windows and exterior shutters.

During the storm

- Find a safe indoor place to take shelter. Avoid sleeping or taking shelter near glass windows. Stay on the second floor if you are unable to evacuate your home and you are in a place that is vulnerable to flooding.
- Keep water and light with you at all times.
- If the typhoon strikes at night, wear clothing in bed that you can immediately go outside in (only if you are in the path of the typhoon) and place sturdy shoes next to your bed to avoid getting injured by sharp items when you have to head out.
- Check tropical storm advisories from the [Japan Meteorological Agency](#), on Twitter or via the Apps you downloaded.
- Stay away from downed power lines - hazard of electric shock.

After the storm

- Be cautious when returning home or heading outside; outdoor debris is dangerous, and broken power lines in water can be deadly. Protect your head at all times.
- Keep dry and warm.
- Follow your government's advice (via the Apps you downloaded before the typhoon).
- Reach out to friends and family to let everyone know you are safe.

More info on emergency preparedness

[WaNavi Japan](#)

[Habitat for Humanity Family Preparedness Plan](#)

[Department of Homeland Security Disaster Plan](#)

IMPORTANT!

This is an inclusive but not an exhaustive list of requirements.

Make sure to take all safety precautions that apply to your family.