

Post-Storm Cleanup Checklist

A safe order of operations for the first weekend after a storm

Before you touch anything

1 Walk the property and look up

Check power lines, rooflines, and standing trees for hazards before starting cleanup.

2 Keep everyone away from downed lines

Treat any line that is down or touching a tree as live until your utility confirms otherwise.

3 Photograph damage before moving debris

Wide shots of each area, then close shots of specific damage for your records.

Sorting as you clear the yard

1 Clean yard debris

Branches, leaves and other material from living trees, kept in its own pile.

2 Damaged building material

Shingles, siding, and fencing pulled loose by wind, kept separate from yard waste.

3 Wet or contaminated material

Anything that touched standing water or came from inside the home, handled on its own.

Questions worth asking before you finish

1 Ask your insurer about documentation needs

Confirm whether they need to see debris in place before you clear it.

2 Ask a contractor before removing anything structural

Get a professional opinion on anything load bearing before it is cleared away.

3 Ask how the load should be sorted for pickup

Mention mixed loads or heavier material when you book so it is handled correctly.

Check for hazards, document it, sort it, then clear it.

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