



Protecting Your Vehicle During a Windstorm, Flood or Hurricane- Before the Storm:

- Know the elevation of your property in relation to nearby streams and dams - this will help forecast if flood levels will affect your home. If you are located in a flood area or within a potential flood zone, you will want to move your car to higher ground.
- Park your car in your garage or carport. The carport would provide protection against falling debris but could blow off if winds are strong enough. If you do park it in the garage, park it against the doors to keep them from buckling inward and potentially blowing them off the tracks. Place a heavy blanket or area rug over the car and between the bumper and door. Remove hanging objects in the garage.
- If you do not have a garage, park your vehicle tight against the house to provide some deflection of wind away from your car and to protect at least one side of the car from flying debris. Do not park under trees, power lines or in low lying areas. Put the emergency brake on and make sure windows are closed tight. A tight fitting car cover may also provide some protection against scratches but may also blow off during high winds.
- Consider a storage facility that is not located in a flood area. Or, seek out a commercial elevated parking garage or wide open public parking lot that is located on high ground and away from trees. Use caution when parking in an underground garage as they flood easily in a heavy water event.
- Evacuation may become necessary, so fill your gas tank well in advance to avoid long lines and possible gas shortages. During an evacuation, routes can become congested causing you to have long waits in traffic. And remember, gas pumps will not operate without electricity.
- Pack the following emergency supplies in your car: booster cables and tools, tire repair kit/spare tire, matches, flashlights, shovel, and traction mats. Pack your family emergency kit as well.
- Check with your insurance carrier to determine if flood or storm damage is covered under your policy.
- Have a copy of your auto insurance policy with you, preferably in a waterproof container.

During the Storm:

- Avoid driving on coastal or low-lying roads because flooding caused by storms can occur with no warning. Watch for flash flooding.
- Use extreme caution when driving your vehicle and coming across flooded roadways. It is often difficult to accurately judge the water level and many modern cars have engine air intake systems that are mounted very low on the front of the vehicle and can easily ingest water in to the engine, damaging the engine and stalling the vehicle.
- Keep away from fallen power lines. If you are in an automobile that is hit by fallen wires, do not leave the vehicle. If you must leave because of a life-threatening situation, use extreme caution. Jump out and off with both feet so you are completely

clear of the vehicle before you touch the ground. Never touch the car and the ground at the same time.

After the Storm:

- When you return to the area, be aware of fallen lines, debris in the roads and other hazards. Make sure you have a spare tire - unfortunately, your chances of experiencing a flat tire are increased due to displaced debris.
- Pay attention to any other post-storm changes, such as missing signs or broken traffic signal lights. After a hurricane, you may find it difficult to navigate in the newly changed landscape.
- Be cautious of any moving water before driving through it as the current could carry your car away and possibly trap you inside.
- Wash any debris from your car and take photos of any damages.

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