

Prepare your home for cyclones

Is your house ready for a cyclone?

You might have your cyclone kit on standby, but is your home free of rotten timber, corrosion, loose fixings, and leaks?

These maintenance issues are the main risk factors that can be mitigated in advance of a cyclone.

They are included in a new pamphlet produced by the Cyclone Testing Station at James Cook University, which receives \$10,000 funding each year from Townsville City Council.

The publication is based on research conducted in tests at the station's 'wind tunnel' in Townsville and by surveying post-disaster sites such as Innisfail, which was hit by Cyclone Larry in 2007.

Research engineer Dr Rolando Castillo said residents should be prepared, even if there was no immediate danger.

"Strong winds, heavy rain and flying debris can all cause extensive damage to homes, however the risk can be

minimised if you're proactive when preparing your home," Dr Castillo said.

"The first step is to ensure your house is maintained and in good condition. Often damage is caused by corrosion, rotten timber, termites or loose fittings.

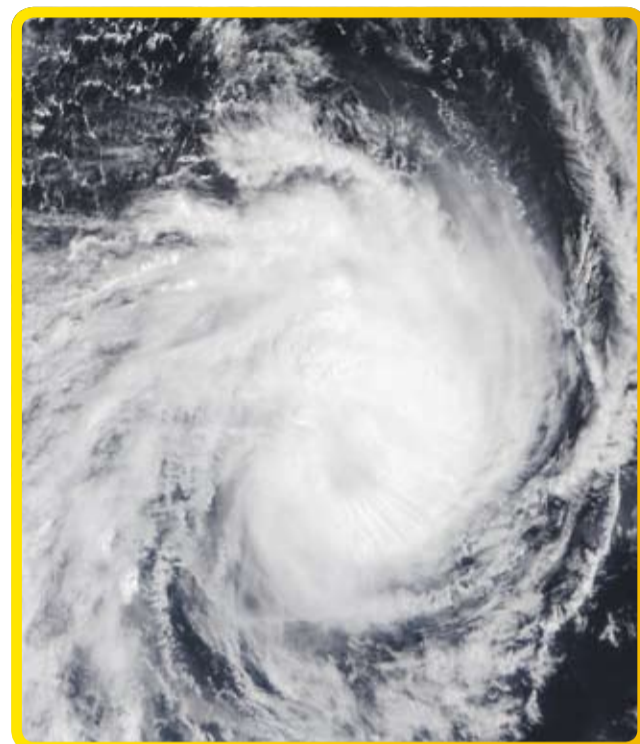
"The most common types of damage include garage doors being blown in or out, roofs being blown away in whole or in part; doors and windows broken and damage to ceilings and walls due to water leakage."

The pamphlet provides tips on how to get your home ready for a cyclone, by outlining what precautions should be taken and what to look for during preparations.

Information includes maintaining your house, areas to protect, and a checklist to ensure you have everything covered.

The brochure was developed in conjunction with the Queensland, Western Australia and Northern Territory governments.

Copies can be downloaded at www.eng.jcu.edu.au/cts or obtained from the customer service centre on 4727 9000 or visit www.townsville.qld.gov.au.



Sustainability in the community – get involved!



Schools program up and running

Council's sustainability educators are looking forward to another year of school partnerships, providing exciting learning opportunities based on a range of environmental activities.

Green Tree Ants

Green tree ants are hard working ants that weave their nests by working as a team and collaborating with each other. Just like the children who participate in the Townsville City Council's Green Tree Ant education program. The program teaches students about our local plants and animals and how they connect with each other.

Get planting!

By planting a tree you are providing a home for our local wildlife. The Community Greening team is getting ready to help you get involved – come and join with them in providing shade and homes for our friends the animals, birds and insects.

Bring your family and friends along too - we'll dig the holes and share a BBQ to celebrate your achievements.

All necessary equipment is provided but you will need to wear closed in shoes, a hat and sunscreen.

Two community plantings are being held, at Oonoonba Park on 4 April and at Albany Road, Hyde Park on 10 May. Both will take place between 8am and 11am.

Tour the Town

The sustainability team's popular catchment tours are back, with a new twist. School



students can now learn about electricity and renewable energy as well as about our waterways. The tours are a great way for students to visit local places, undertake hands on learning activities and uncover the otherwise hidden worlds of water and energy.

June goes green

It's a busy month for the environment in June, starting with Environment Week. Council will be providing a full week of activities, including the presentation of the annual Environment and Sustainability Excellence Awards. More details will be announced closer to the time.

Smart City Expo

The 2008 Sustainability Expo was so popular that we're doing it again!

And this year we want to see the Walker Street forecourt buzzing with activity again as local businesses get together to showcase their products. Come along and learn what you can do at home or work to become more efficient in using water, energy and other resources.

20-21 June.

Ecofiesta

Everyone loves a party and Ecofiesta time is party time. Once again our local musicians, artists and creators will get together with environmental and community groups and celebrate living in our unique dry tropics environment.

Queens Park, 14 June.



Shading our Schools

There's nothing like sitting under a shady tree to eat your lunch. School children can keep their cool and stay 'Sunsafe' if they plant trees at their school. The School Shade Tree Program is a school – Council partnership that supports schools in greening and planting our local trees and shrubs.

More Information

For any information about programs and events run by Integrated Sustainability Services, please ring the Customer Service Centre on 4727 9000.