

# Flood safety information

## Electrical equipment and appliances

Residents of flood-affected areas are urged to use extreme caution when handling electrical equipment while cleaning up after the floods. Damaged wiring and electrical equipment can cause electrocution, shocks and fires.

Household items such as kettles, toasters, appliances and power tools that may have become wet or submerged in the floodwaters should not be used until they are checked by an electrician. Larger appliances that have been in contact with water, such as air-conditioning units, should also be inspected by a licensed electrical contractor before use.

For advice call the Electrical Safety Office on 1300 650 662 or visit [www.electricalsafety.qld.gov.au](http://www.electricalsafety.qld.gov.au). To find a licensed electrician, use the free online booking service at [www.masterelectricians.com.au](http://www.masterelectricians.com.au) or call Master Electricians Australia on **1300 889 198** or at [www.neca.asn.au](http://www.neca.asn.au) or by calling the National Electrical and Communications Association on **(07) 3276 7950**.

## Safe use of generators

The Electrical Safety Office is reminding people using portable generators to be aware of the dangers if used incorrectly.

If you are using a generator to power your home it must be connected via a change-over switch that has been installed by a licensed electrical contractor.

Using a generator to supplement domestic electricity during a power outage also carries dangers of poisoning from carbon monoxide gases, fire and electrocution.

For more information visit [www.electricalsafety.qld.gov.au](http://www.electricalsafety.qld.gov.au) or call the Electrical Safety Office on **1300 650 662**.

## Reconnecting electricity

Flood-affected buildings need to be inspected by a licensed electrical contractor before electricity can be reconnected.

When flooding has receded, home owners and business must engage a licensed electrical contractor to inspect the wiring to ensure it is safe.

For more information about electrical safety after wet weather, visit [www.electricalsafety.qld.gov.au](http://www.electricalsafety.qld.gov.au) or call the Electrical Safety Office on 1300 650 662. Advice about reconnections is also available from Ergon Energy (phone **13 10 46**) and Energex (phone **13 12 53**).

## Clean up safety

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland is reminding those helping with clean up efforts to wear personal protective equipment, such as rubber gloves, enclosed rubber-soled shoes, clothing that covers exposed skin and a hat while in the sun.

Residents and workers should also take great care when using chainsaws, ladders, tractors, trucks and trailers. Obey the manufacturer's safety and operating instructions, and wear the required protective equipment.

For more information about managing workplace risks during the clean-up visit [www.worksafe.qld.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au) or phone **1300 369 915**.

### **Precautions for asbestos-containing materials**

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland is warning residents that flood-affected buildings could contain damaged asbestos-containing materials that could pose a hazard when cleaning up.

Houses and other buildings built before 1990 may contain asbestos materials, and residents are urged to exercise caution when cleaning their homes and businesses. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment and keep asbestos materials wet during removal.

Avoid breaking asbestos material and handle it with care as fibres can be released into the air especially through sawing and drilling. Don't use high pressured hoses or gurneys to clean asbestos-containing materials.

If you are removing more than 10 square metres (10 m<sup>2</sup>) you must get a licensed asbestos removal contractor.

For more information visit [www.worksafe.qld.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au) or phone **1300 369 915**.