

What do the colours mean?



YELLOW WARNING

Yellow warnings can be issued for a range of weather situations. Many are issued when it is likely that the weather will cause some low level impacts, including some disruption to travel in a few places. Many people may be able to continue with their daily routine, but there will be some that will be directly impacted and so it is important to assess if you could be affected. Other yellow warnings are issued when the weather could bring much more severe impacts to the majority of people but the certainty of those impacts occurring is much lower. It is important to read the content of yellow warnings to determine which weather situation is being covered by the yellow warning.



AMBER WARNING

There is an increased likelihood of severe weather, which could potentially disrupt your plans. This means there is the possibility of travel delays, road and rail closures, power cuts and the potential risk to life and property. You should think about changing your plans and taking action to protect yourself and your property. You may want to consider the impact of the weather on your family and your community and whether there is anything you need to do ahead of the severe weather to minimise the impact.



RED WARNING

Dangerous weather is expected – and, if you haven't already done so, you should take action now to keep yourself and others safe from the impact of the severe weather. It is very likely that there will be a risk to life, with substantial disruption to travel, energy supplies and possibly widespread damage to property and infrastructure. You should avoid travelling, where possible and follow the advice of the emergency services and local authorities.

By receiving and understanding Met Office weather warnings, you can help your community to stay one step ahead of the impacts from severe weather.

The first thing to do is to check your local forecast and see if any weather warnings are in force for your area.

Download our weather app or sign up for our email alerts to keep up to date if you are out and about. You can also help by passing Met Office warnings on to family and friends, or by sharing them on Facebook, Twitter and other social media.

Met Office website

Find local weather forecasts at

www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast

Find weather warnings at

www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/warnings

Met Office Weather app

www.metoffice.gov.uk/app

Social media

[Facebook: /metoffice](https://www.facebook.com/metoffice)

[Twitter: @metoffice](https://twitter.com/metoffice)

Get critical information about severe weather on your phone in real-time by subscribing to signing up for Twitter alerts from the Met Office at <https://twitter.com/metoffice/alerts>.

Email alerts

www.metoffice.gov.uk/about-us/guide-to-emails

Radio/television

Check the local weather reports for the latest information.

Always keep up to date with the latest forecast from the Met Office.



Met Office weather warnings

As the UK's national weather service, the Met Office is responsible for warning people, businesses, emergency responders and governments, for when severe weather has the potential to bring a danger to life, property - and disruption to our daily way of living.

We provide warnings up to seven days ahead for: Rain, Thunderstorm, Wind, Snow, Lightning, Ice, Extreme Heat and Fog. Each warning has a colour depending on a combination of both the impacts caused by the weather conditions and the likelihood of those impacts occurring. These impacts can include, damage to property, loss of water supplies, power cuts and travel delays.

Storm naming

The Met Office, in collaboration with the Irish meteorological service, Met Éireann and the Dutch national weather forecasting service, KNMI, names storms when the wind is forecast to be strong enough to meet certain criteria. In the UK, a storm is named when it has the potential to cause a sufficient level of impact that could result in the issuing of an amber or red warning.

Storms are named in relation to the weather warning services of the UK, Republic of Ireland and the Netherlands respectively.

In the UK storm naming is based on the possible impact of a storm rather than a particular weather threshold.

A storm is named when strong wind is expected. However, storms are often associated with other types of weather, which can result in additional impacts. Therefore, a named storm can bring impacts from both strong winds and other weather such as rain, which may cause flooding.

Helping your community

There are practical steps you can take to support your community in preparing for severe weather.

Rain

Heavy rain brings the risk of impacts to transport routes and services as well as to properties and businesses. Short periods of intense rainfall can cause flash flooding and longer periods of heavy rainfall can cause widespread flooding and rivers to overflow.

Flooding advice

Your community might be in an area susceptible to flooding so you might want to get involved in helping to prepare for and respond to possible flooding impacts. It is not just your home that may be affected - but also businesses, schools and community venues. Check out the latest on flooding information for your part of the UK:

England: Environment Agency

<https://www.gov.uk/check-flood-risk>

Northern Ireland: NI Direct

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/flooding>

Scotland: Scottish Environment Protection Agency

<https://www.floodlinescotland.org.uk/your-home/>

Wales: Natural Resources Wales

<https://naturalresources.wales/flooding/what-to-do-before-during-and-after-a-flood/?lang=en>

Prepare a flood kit of essential items such as your insurance documents, a torch, a wind-up or battery radio, warm clothing and blankets, a first aid kit and any prescription medicine, bottled water and non-perishable foods.

Snow and ice

Snow and ice often affect us at some point over winter. Not only can it severely disrupt your travel plans - it can also affect access to your home and community buildings. Clearing snow and ice from the pavement outside your home or public areas can help prevent slips and falls. Check that any elderly or disabled neighbours are keeping warm and well in any cold weather.

Thunderstorms and lightning

Thunderstorms bring the risk of impacts to road, rail and air transport, as well as to properties and utilities from short-lived torrential rain, hail and lightning strikes. Lightning can cause power cuts and disrupt other utilities and services. Torrential rain and hail can lead to flooding and make driving difficult - with big differences in road conditions from one place to another.

Strong winds and gales

Taking a few simple precautions before damaging winds arrive can make it easier to tidy up afterwards. Small things can really help, like clearing gutters or fixing broken tiles and moving garden furniture and pot plants to garden sheds or garages.

Fog

Whether it is widespread or patchy, thick fog can bring disruption to all transport networks. Driving conditions can become very poor and make journey times longer. Passengers may be delayed or stranded at airports or ferry terminals, so always check the forecast before you travel.

Extreme Heat

Whilst many of us like to enjoy the sunshine and hot weather, we should make sure we do it safely and remember certain groups of people are more vulnerable than others to heat. Extreme heat not only affects us but can also place strains on water and energy utilities, road and rail transport and the health and fire services.