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Suncorp Insurance reveals Victoria’s top ten storm-battered suburbs

With Victoria in the depths of a third consecutive La Nina, and the Bureau of Meteorology predicting severe storms and an increased risk of widespread flooding for Eastern parts of the country this summer, Suncorp Insurance has revealed Sunbury in Melbourne’s North West, followed by Mount Eliza and Mornington, both in the Mornington Peninsula were the state’s worst storm–affected suburbs over the past financial year.

Suncorp Insurance analysed more than 30,000 weather-related home insurance claims across Victoria from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, to reveal the hardest hit suburbs.

Suncorp Insurance EGM Home Claims, Alli Smith said the figures are a stark reminder of the difficult year Victorians have had weather-wise and should be viewed as a reminder that the warmer weather can bring sudden storms and heavy rains that can lead to floods.

**Top 10 storm hotspots in Victoria (1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022)**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Rank** | **Hotspot Suburb** | **Region** |
| 1. | Sunbury | Melbourne Metro North West |
| 2. | Mount Eliza | Mornington Peninsula |
| 3. | Mornington | Mornington Peninsula |
| 4. | Frankston | Mornington Peninsula |
| 5. | Point Cook | Melbourne Metro South West |
| 6. | Hoppers Crossing | Melbourne Metro South West |  |
| 7. | Mount Martha | Mornington Peninsula |
| 8. | Werribee | Melbourne Metro South West |
| 9. | Berwick | Melbourne Metro South East |
| 10. | Rye | Mornington Peninsula |

“Victoria has been battered by numerous significant weather events over the past financial year – including strong winds (October 2021), severe rain and floods (December 2021) and damaging thunderstorms (January 2022),” Ms Smith said.

“And our data shows that no one region is more prone to significant weather events – with our top ten storm-battered suburbs coming from four different regions – once again highlighting that severe storms and weather can strike anywhere.”

As recent as last month, Victoria has been impacted by ongoing flooding, with impacted towns including Echuca, Shepparton in the state’s North East, and Maribyrnong in Melbourne’s north (which is not included in this Hotspots data set)

Ms Smith said Suncorp Insurance has released this information to act as a reminder that storm season is upon us, and now is the time to get you and your home storm-ready.

“We’ve released this list of storm-battered suburbs to remind residents across Victoria that the impact of storms and significant weather events on property can be severe, and highlight the importance of ensuring you have done everything you can to strengthen your home’s resilience against the effects of Mother Nature.”

New research by Suncorp Insurance found that while 88 per cent of Victorians admit to knowing at least one activity that should be completed prior to storm season, a third (33 per cent) admit to doing nothing to prepare.

“Victorians know the messages around preparing for storm season,” Ms Smith said.

“But unfortunately knowing the messages and actually doing something to better prepare and protect your home are two separate things, and many people in Victoria are failing to actually complete the often quick-and-easy tasks.”

Suncorp Insurance has been on a mission to help educate Victorians on what they can do to better protect their homes in preparation for the next extreme weather event, because it isn’t a matter of ‘if’ it will happen, but when.

“We’re a state battered by extreme weather, and it is unfortunately becoming more frequent and severe,” Ms Smith said.

“We want Victorians to not only be ready for storm season, but to be resilient.”

To address the need for greater resilience, in 2021 Suncorp partnered with CSIRO, James Cook University and Room 11 Architects to design, prototype and test what could be Australia’s most resilient home – One House, a modern and functional home, with features included to help it withstand natural disasters.

This year, Suncorp took the learnings from One House and applied them to Resilience Road – a project to upgrade four homes on a street in Rockhampton.

“Our One House and Resilience Road projects highlight how easy and cost-effective it can be to strengthen the resilience of your home, and better protect them from significant weather events,” Ms Smith said.

“With summer on our doorstep, a third La Nina in full swing and wet conditions forecast for the coming months, now is the time for all Victorians to get ready and take some practical steps to protect what matters most.”

Suncorp Insurance has developed a list of some low cost and high impact things Victorians can do to strengthen the resilience of their home, including:

* Cleaning/ installing gutters or downpipes
* Have the roof inspected for damaged or loose tiles
* Repair any broken sealant around windowsills to make them watertight
* Inspecting retaining walls
* Fix any corrosion, loose fittings, and rotting or termite infected timber
* Installing fixed, operable high performance mesh screens on doors and windows

“These solutions would dramatically reduce the financial, emotional and social costs associated with recovering from natural disasters,” Ms Smith said.

“And we encourage all Victorians to do what they can to prevent their home from becoming a statistic this summer.”

For more tips on how to make your home more resilient visit [Build Resilience - Suncorp](https://resilience.suncorp.com.au/build-resilience/)

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**Notes to Editor**

The research findings were compiled through a national survey with a representative sample of 1,000 Australians aged 18+ and was conducted by Kantar in September 2022 on behalf of Suncorp Insurance.

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