

IT MAY PAY TO CHECK YOUR ROOF FRAMING FOLLOWING CYCLONE DEBBIE

The QBCC is encouraging owners of older dwellings to arrange a professional building inspection of the roof framing to ensure that no damage or partial failure of the framing / tie-down elements has occurred following Cyclone Debbie.

James Cook University's Cyclone Testing Station (CTS) damage assessments of buildings affected by Cyclone Debbie have revealed that a number of older houses and business premises sustained "hidden" damage.

The CTS found that a number of buildings which appeared to show no damage when viewed from the outside did in fact have partial failure of the roof frame when an internal inspection of the roof space was conducted.

The following issues may indicate the need for further investigation:

- movement, or spongy-feeling roof coverings when walked upon
- excessive squeaking when the roof is walked upon
- gaps evident between roof battens and rafters or trusses
- loose roofing screws or nails.

Considering the CTS report, the QBCC recommends that houses in regions where high-wind damage occurred are checked by a competent building professional. A professional visual inspection of a roof space can help to identify if "hidden" damage has occurred.

The QBCC produces a number of [data sheets](#) which provide homeowners and building contractors with advice and information about rebuilding after a natural disaster.

If your roof requires repair work, it is important that such repairs meet current building codes and/or improve the strength and resilience of the roof framing of your home. This will better ensure its performance during future high-wind events.

Need more information

For more detailed advice, the QBCC fact sheet [Repair of Sheet Metal Roofs in Cyclonic Areas](#) contains important information on Building Approvals, Roof Framing Connections and associated information about repairing or rebuilding a home.

Visit us at www.qbcc.qld.gov.au or call the QBCC on 139 333.