Storm Shelters and Safe Rooms

The devastating tornadoes that have hit Missouri in recent years have caused many Missourians to take a closer look at their vulnerability to nature’s wrath and to make better preparations for surviving future storms.

Having a shelter or a safe room built into or near the home can help protect your family from injury or death caused by the dangerous forces of extreme winds.

Missouri is a high-risk state for high wind and tornadoes

All of Missouri is in Wind Zone IV, meaning wind gusts from severe storms can exceed 250 mph. The number of recorded tornadoes is 5 to 15 per 2,470 square miles for much of the state. Combined, these factors place the entire state at a high-risk level that warrants a shelter as the preferred method of protection.

Basic features of a shelter or safe room

In selecting a shelter or safe room, consider the following three factors.

• **Durability** — Is it strong enough that the walls, roof, and door will withstand 250-mph winds and resist penetration by 100-mph wind-borne flying debris? Is it well-anchored to resist overturning and uplift? Does it have three dead-bolt locks, or the equivalent, on the access door?

• **Proximity** — Is it close to or inside your residence or place of work so you can quickly get to it? It should be readily accessible from all parts of the dwelling. Do you want it in-ground or above-ground? If in-ground, will soils and drainage accommodate it and be in a flood-free area?

• **Accessibility** — Can you easily get into and out of it? Does it need to be wheelchair accessible? Does the door open outward or inward? Your shelter or safe room should be free of clutter.

You will need to decide between reinforced concrete, fabricated steel, Kevlar, or plywood and sheet steel. Commonly used house construction techniques are based on minimum building codes and generally don’t provide adequate protection. Most Missouri counties do not have even these minimum building codes.

Resources for planning and building a shelter or safe room

To help homeowners and builders design and build shelters that withstand extreme wind speeds, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has a 46-page booklet titled FEMA 320, Taking Shelter From the Storm: Building a Safe Room For Your Home or Small Business, which includes 18 pages of construction plans and cost estimates. You can get a free copy by:

- calling FEMA, toll-free, 800-480-2520, or

Whether you build a shelter or not, you can take these important steps to protect your family.

1. Prepare an emergency plan for dealing with disaster situations.
2. Put together an emergency supply kit for home, business and each vehicle.

More resources and information

Pages 2 through 4 of this guide list storm shelter and safe room manufacturers serving Missouri. It is not intended to be a complete list of manufacturers, and University of Missouri Extension does not imply endorsement by listing a firm.

Texas Tech University’s Wind Science and Engineering Research Center offers information on protection from extreme wind. The website also has information on building an in-home shelter or safe room: [http://www.depts.ttu.edu/weweb/Shelters/Shelters.php](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/weweb/Shelters/Shelters.php)

The FEMA website has extensive information on safe rooms and shelters: [http://www.fema.gov/safe-room-resources](http://www.fema.gov/safe-room-resources)

More information on emergency preparedness and disaster recovery is available at the MU Extension website: [http://extension.missouri.edu/emergencymanagement.htm](http://extension.missouri.edu/emergencymanagement.htm)

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extension.missouri.edu > emergency management > emergencies and disasters > emw1025
Partial List of Storm Shelter and Safe Room Manufacturers Serving Missouri

For informational purposes only; no endorsement is implied by their mention.

Missouri

Atlas Safe Rooms
601 S. McKinley Ave.
Joplin, MO 64801
Phone: 800-781-0112
Email: sales@atlassaferooms.com
Web: www.atlassaferooms.com

Calus Precast Concrete
211 E. 20th St.
Mountain Grove, MO 65711
Phone: 417-926-6000 or 417-259-4283

FamilySAFE Storm Shelters
221 W. North St.
Republic, MO 65738
Phone: 417-732-7233 or 417-848-3791
Email: rrayl@ varsityfs.com
Web: http://www.familysafemo.com

Missouri Storm Shelters, Inc.
1839 N. Commerce Drive
Nixa, MO 65714
Phone: 417-725-0055
Web: http://www.missouristormshelters.com

Ozark Wilbert Vault Co.
310 Spruce St.
Cabool, MO 65689
Phone: 417-962-3126
Web: http://www.siprecast.com

Reliable Storm Shelters
Carthage, MO 64836
Phone: 417-850-5562 or 417-861-7178
Web: http://www.reliablestormshelters.com

Ron Norris
7911 County Road 5090
West Plains, MO 65775
Phone: 417-274-8774
Email: rlnoris@centurylink.net
(Builds poured-in-place concrete safe rooms within 100-mile radius of West Plains)

Safe-T-First Storm Shelters / Steel Safe Rooms & Doors
440 SW U.S. Highway 60
Billings, MO 65610
Phone: 417-744-1700 or 417-840-1085
Web: http://safe-t-first-shelters.com

SI Precast Concrete
Phone: 816-966-9000 (Grandview)
573-243-6052 (Jackson)
660-263-1213 (Moberly)
417-962-3126 (Mountain Grove)
417-581-3060 (Ozark)
573-364-3800 (Rolla)
417-883-2355 (Springfield)
816-233-0248 (St. Joseph)
573-378-5474 (Versailles)
Web: http://www.siprecast.com

The Concrete Works, LLC
One Concrete Way
H.C.R. 72, Box 374
Souder, MO 65773
Phone: 417-265-3504
Email: info@theconcreteworks.com
Web: http://www.theconcreteworks.com/stormshelters.html

Tornado Guard
21205 N. Ponderosa Road
Clark, MO 65243
Phone: 573-687-3253 or 573-673-1535
Email: info@tornadoguard.com
Web: http://tornadoguard.com

TwisterSafe, LLC
9479 Gateway Drive
Neosho, MO 64850
Phone: 417-782-1039
Email: sales@twistersafe.com
Web: http://www.twistersafe.com
Outside Missouri

Arkansas

Arkansas Storm Shelters
4142 E. Main St.
Russellville, AR 72801
Phone: 479-967-7233 or 855-967-7233
Web: http://www.arkansastormshelter.com

Cozy Caverns Storm Shelters
135 Parris Lane
Austin, AR 72007
Phone: 501-920-7460
Email: jhg@cozycaverns.com
Web: http://www.cozycaverns.com

DuPont StormRoom
Distributed by StormSolutions
206 S. Springfield St.
Berryville, AR 72616
Phone: 888-578-6769
Email: info@stormsolutions.us
Web: http://www.stormsolutions.us

NEA Shelters
3132 CC Road
Ravenden Springs, AR 72460
Phone: 870-892-0257

Illinois

Lifesaver Storm Shelters
450 E. Illinois Ave.
Benton, IL 62812
Phone: 618-435-3833
Email: info@sheltersonline.com
Web: http://www.sheltersonline.com/dealer/Missouri.html

SafeSheds, Inc.
7029 Parrill Road
Alma, IL 62807
Phone: 888-556-1531
E-mail: support@safesheds.com
Web: http://www.safesheds.com

Kansas

Canton Enterprises
701 W. Railroad
P.O. Box 135
Canton, KS 67428
Phone: 888-323-3123
Email: info@stormsbelters.biz
Web: http://www.stormsbelters.biz

Mauzey Construction
4393 252nd Road
Arkansas City, KS 67005
Phone: 620-442-8698
Email: info@mauzeyconstruction.com
Web: http://www.mauzeyconstruction.com

Ohio

The Perfect Storm Shelter, LLC
8171 Tyler Blvd.
Mentor, OH 44060
Phone: 440-255-7525
Email: diedre@smpwelding.com
Web: http://www.theperfectstormshelters.com

Oklahoma

Ground Zero Storm Shelters
4600 Independence Road
Perry, OK 73077
Phone: 877-880-1351 or 405-627-2245
Email: richard@groundzeroshelters.com
Web: http://www.groundzeroshelters.com

Hausner’s Inc.
505 N. Griffith, P.O. Box 32
Drumright, OK 74030
Phone: 800-533-9509 or 918-352-3479
Email: bausnersprecast@earthlink.net
Web: http://www.bausners.com

New Day Tornado Shelters
6040 E. Tecumseh St.
Tulsa, OK 74115
Phone: 918-277-3758
Web: http://www.newdaytornadoshelters.com

Storm Safe Rooms
13614 N. Old Highway 169
Collinsville, OK 74021
Phone: 800-324-3932 or 918-519-0576
Email: info@stormsaferoom.com
Web: http://www.stormsaferoom.com

Texoma MFG, LLC
3324 N. First Ave.
Durant, Oklahoma 74701
Phone: 580-920-0878
Email: wayne@jcfab.net
Web: http://texomamfg.com/storm-shelters

Tennessee

Providence Safe Rooms, Inc.
3608 Old Hickory Blvd.
Old Hickory, TN 37138
Phone: 855-758-8038 or 615-758-8038
There may be other local companies not listed here that make concrete storm shelters. They are usually listed in the Yellow Pages as the same companies that sell septic tanks.