

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
- visiting their website: <http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/saferoom/fema320.shtm>

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>
- The FEMA website has extensive information on safe rooms and shelters: <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>

Written by
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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: rlnorris@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.arkansasstormshelter.com>

Cozy Caverns Storm Shelters

135 Parris Lane
Austin, AR 72007
Phone: 501-920-7460
Email: jbg@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@sbeltersonline.com
Web: <http://www.sbeltersonline.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@stormshelters.biz
Web: <http://www.stormshelters.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@groundzeroshelter.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: hausnersprecast@earthblink.net
Web: <http://www.hausners.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 : 800-324-9322 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

Web: <http://www.providencesaferooms.com>

RemagenSafeRooms

P.O. Box 796
Monteagle, TN 37356
Phone: 888-397-7142
Email: info@remagensaferooms.com
Web: <http://www.remagensaferooms.com>

Steel Storm Shelters, LLC

365 Pleasant Springs Lane
Henderson, TN 38340
Phone: 866-427-8044
Web: <http://www.steelstormshelters.com>

TornadoSafeRoom

Distributed by Floyd Arnold

P.O. Box 10238
Murfreesboro, TN 37129
Phone: 1-877-723-7666
Email: floydarnold@comcast.net
Web: <http://www.tornadosaferoom.com>

Texas

Fiberglass Creations Inc.

P.O. Box 2042
1601 Hamlett St.
Henderson, TX 75653
Phone: 877-957-6616 or 903-657-6616
Email: fibercreate@tyler.net
Web: <http://www.fiberglasscreations.com>

Jarrell Storm Shelters

911 N. First St.
Jarrell, TX 76537
Phone: 866-817-0293 or 512-796-0614

Email: info@jarrellstormshelters.com

Web: <http://jarrellstormshelters.com>

U.S. Storm Shelters

443 Private Road 4215
Decatur, TX 76234
Phone: 800-868-5799 or 800-379-9712
Email: info@usstormshelters.com
Web: <http://www.usstormshelters.com>

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.

ALSO FROM MU EXTENSION PUBLICATIONS

EMW1001 Disaster Recovery Resources for Missouri Families
EMW1011 Family Disaster Plan
EMW1012 Disaster Supplies Kit
EMW1024 Replacing Important Papers
MP904 Resources for Your Flooded Home

extension.missouri.edu | 800-292-0969