

# Toolbox Talk: Working in Adverse Weather

Insert Company Logo Here

Insert Company Name & Address Here

Toolbox Talk Ref: Adverse Weather

Page: 1 of 3

## Purpose

To ensure the safety of operatives working outdoors when adverse weather conditions increase risk.

## Legal Duty

Under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, employers must assess risks and protect workers. Weather conditions must be considered when planning outdoor work.

## Why This Matters

Window cleaners often work outdoors where conditions can change quickly. Adverse weather increases risks such as slips, ladder instability, poor visibility, cold or heat stress, and equipment failure.

## Common Weather Risks

**Strong Winds:** Can destabilise ladders and equipment.

**Rain and Wet Conditions:** Surfaces become slippery increasing fall risk.

**Ice, Snow and Frost:** Surfaces become unsafe and ladders may not be stable.

**Extreme Heat:** Can lead to dehydration and heat exhaustion.

## Safe Working Practices

- Check weather forecasts before starting work
- Stop work if weather conditions become unsafe
- Avoid ladder use in strong winds
- Wear appropriate PPE and footwear with good grip
- Secure tools and equipment
- Use water-fed pole systems where possible to reduce work at height

## When Work Should Stop

Work should stop immediately if wind speeds are unsafe, lightning storms occur, surfaces become icy, or visibility becomes poor.



Insert Company Logo Here  
Insert Company Name & Address Here  
Toolbox Talk Ref: Adverse Weather  
Page: 3 of 3

## **WCA Member Disclaimer**

This document is provided by the Window Cleaners Association (WCA) as a general guidance template only. It does not replace site-specific risk assessments, training, or professional health and safety advice. Employers remain responsible for ensuring work complies with current UK health and safety legislation and HSE guidance. The WCA accepts no liability for injury, damage or enforcement action arising from the use or misuse of this template.

## **Recommended HSE Sources**

HSE – Managing risks and risk assessment:  
<https://www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/risk/index.htm>  
HSE – Working at height: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/work-at-height/index.htm>  
HSE – Temperature in the workplace: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/temperature/index.htm>