

CANADA'S Colour-Coded Weather Alerts

KNOW THE COLOUR. KNOW THE RISK

► What is a weather alert?

A weather alert is a message that warns you about weather that could affect your safety. In Canada, these alerts come from trained scientists called meteorologists—experts who study and predict the weather. These alerts explain not just what the weather will be, but what it could do (e.g., cause flooding, power outages, or dangerous travel conditions).

► What information is included in a weather alert?

In Canada, weather alerts always include a *colour*, *type* and *weather hazard*.

► Alert types

The alert type describes what is happening and how to respond.

Watches

- This means conditions are favourable for severe weather to develop. Stay alert and get ready.
- A Watch can turn into a Warning if the weather becomes more dangerous.

Advisories

- This means the weather is not extreme, but it could still cause problems. You should be aware and take extra care.
- Advisories are issued for conditions such as fog, freezing drizzle, frost, or blowing snow.

Warnings

- This means severe weather is happening or will happen very soon. You need to act right away to stay safe.
- Warnings are often issued hours in advance, but some weather events (e.g., tornadoes) can happen with very little notice.

► Alert colours

The colour describes how serious the alert is and its likely impact.



Yellow

- Weather may cause some problems.
- Impacts are likely to be moderate, local, and short-term.
- Yellow alerts are the most common.



Orange

- Severe weather is likely and could cause serious problems.
- Impacts are likely to be major and could affect large areas or last a few days.
- Orange alerts are less common.



Red

- Very dangerous weather is expected or happening.
- Impacts are likely to be extreme, widespread, and may last a long time.
- Red alerts are rare.

► How can I get alerts?

You can get weather forecasts and alerts by downloading the free [WeatherCAN](#) app, or by visiting [Canada.ca/weather](#). These tools also let you track air quality, zoom in on radar animations, view real-time lightning strikes, and discover weather facts and climate tips!

Example of a weather alert showing the impact level, forecast confidence (how certain meteorologists are that it will happen), what the weather will be, where it will happen, how it may impact you, and actions you can take to stay safe.

