

Protection and shelters

Most new buildings today have a Mamad (a safe room in an apartment), a Mamak (floor-level safe room), while older areas have public bomb shelters. If there is no protected space, then act according to “the most protected available” and go to a stairwell, go down to a middle floor or take cover behind protection in a public area.

Remember, it is each citizen’s responsibility to take care of their shelter

If you hear a siren, head to the nearest protected space within 45 seconds. Below are the different types of protected spaces and how to take care of them.

Mamad or Mamak

Prepare the protected space in advance, make sure the route is clear of obstacles, the Mamad is clean and equipped and ready and suitable for use by all members of the household

Required equipment in a protected space:

It is advisable to prepare an emergency kit in the safe room for a stay of a few days. The kit should contain the following items: updated information on your health and ways of contacting relatives, a sufficient supply of any medication you may take on a regular basis as well as a photocopy of prescriptions, photocopies of important documents, cash, clothing, flashlight and batteries, a knife or pocket knife, a radio and batteries, hygiene equipment and food for your pets. Also stock up on water (3 liters per person, per day) and food (canned or dry food) and take care to refresh the supply according to the expiration date.

If you do not have a protected space and need to move elsewhere or go to a shelter, it is advisable to make a smaller kit with essential items, especially medicines, water and food.

Public shelters

Public shelters are maintained by the municipality and in accordance with policy many shelters are classified as dual use, in order to keep them in good operational order.

Make sure to know which is the nearest public shelter to your home and the shortest and safest route there.

Construction and maintenance. Therefore, it is appropriate to make further use of these public spaces to maximise the benefit and welfare of the community

Shared and private shelters

A joint shelter in residential buildings is the property of all the residents and no one of the apartment owners has exclusive possession of the shared shelter. Therefore, it is forbidden to store private property in the common shelter, to use the shelter contrary to its purpose as a means of protection or to make any use of it in contravention of the law.

Please note, a shelter is intended to serve as protected space in emergencies, so it must be clean of any equipment or movables, other than those required by civil defense laws, it must be kept clean and ventilated so that it is usable as a shelter in emergencies.

Guidelines for shelter maintenance

1. Do not place heavy furniture that require more than two people to move in the shelter, for example: a grand piano or a printing machine.
2. Do not afix furniture or equipment to the floor or ceiling in the center of the shelter.
3. Do not hang equipment on the walls of the shelter, place it on the floor.
4. Do not place in the shelter anything that takes up the entire floor space, this could cause confusion during an emergency.
5. Do not place any permanent plumbing in the center of the shelter, for example: water or drainage pipes.
6. Do not plaster the walls or cover them with ceramic tiles or tiles of any other sort.
7. Do not glue carpets to the walls of the shelter (they can be afixed by other means).
8. Do not use flammable materials in the shelter for acoustic insulation, decoration or any other purpose.
9. Do not install piping of any sort or use any appartus operating on gas.
10. Do not store in or near the shelter gas, poisonous materials of any sort or any other hazardous material, including flammable materials, be it in a container or in bulk.
11. Check that the doors open and close properly, check the blast windows and surrounding insulating rubber.
12. Be sure to renew the signs in the shelter and make sure all access routes are clear and in order.
13. Make sure that the size of the shelter and the number of seats match the number of people to stay in it.
14. Never use the shelter as a storage room.
15. Each appartment should have a key to a common shelter.
16. Prepare basic equipment that includes: first aid kit; fire extinguisher kit; drinking water containers or sealed bottles; emergency lighting or flashlight with batteries; suitable hygiene equipment (such as toilets and garbage collection bags).
17. It is recommended to stock the shelter with food (ready-to-eat products such as snacks and canned goods), radio with replacement batteries, TV and telephone, newspapers, books, toys and games for children, essential phone books, electric fan and garbage bin.

Entrance and stairwell

The entrance to the shelter should be clean and pleasant, creating a friendly atmosphere and improving the connection between the shelter and the outside world.