



Windstorm Preparedness & Loss Prevention

We recommend visiting the U.S. National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) website for hurricane preparedness tips: www.nhc.noaa.gov/prepare/ready.php. Also, please note the following suggestions:

Things to do now

- Check your disaster supplies such as bottled water, nonperishable/dehydrated foods, batteries for flashlights, first aid and hygiene kit, waterproof matches, etc.
- Replace or restock disaster supplies as needed now. Supplies will likely run out quickly when a disaster appears imminent.
- Find out about your community's hurricane response plan. Plan routes to local shelters, register family members with special medical needs, and make plans for your pets to be cared for.
- Create a hurricane evacuation plan with members of your household. Planning and practicing your evacuation plan now will minimize confusion and fear during the event.
- Research the elevation level of your property and whether your property is flood-prone. This will help you better understand how your property may be affected when storm surge or tidal flooding are forecast.
- Be sure trees and shrubs around your home are well trimmed so they are more wind resistant.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- Consider "hardening" your home:
 - Replace windows and doors that do not meet high standards for wind load and impact resistance (e.g. ASTM E1996) with those that do.
 - Install straps or additional clips to securely fasten your roof to the frame structure. This will reduce roof damage.
 - Reinforce your garage doors; if wind enters a garage it can cause dangerous and expensive structural damage.

- Create an inventory of your personal property, and keep this list in a safe location such as a bank safe deposit box.
- Write down your property insurance policy number and keep this information with your key documents (e.g. driver's license, passport).

Things to do if a storm warning is in effect

- Obey evacuation orders. Avoid flooded roads and washed out bridges.
- Listen to a NOAA Weather Radio for critical information from the National Weather Service.
- Bring in anything that is not tied down such as bicycles, lawn furniture, and garbage cans.
- Close windows, doors and hurricane shutters. Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection for windows. If you do not have hurricane shutters, close and board up all windows and doors with 5/8" exterior grade or marine plywood, cut to fit and ready to install. Another year-round option would be installation of windows with missile impact-resistant glazing. Tape does **not** prevent windows from breaking.
- Turn your refrigerator and freezer to the coldest setting. Keep them closed as much as possible so that food will last longer if the power goes out.
- Turn off your propane tank. Bring it inside if you can, and store it in a safe place. High winds can lift and throw a propane tank.
- Unplug small appliances.
- Fill your bathtub with water.
- Fill your car's gas tank.
- Withdraw cash from your local bank. ATMs and debit card machines do not work without electricity.