



HURRICANE PREPARATION, EVACUATION AND RECOVERY

Checklist: How to Prepare Your Home for a Hurricane

Hurricanes can be unpredictable, but there are steps you can take to help protect your home. This hurricane checklist can help prevent or reduce the damage to your home and belongings.

Help protect against high winds.

- Cover your windows with storm shutters or plywood. Don't tape windows; it doesn't protect them.
- Close the garage door and all interior and exterior windows and doors to help compartmentalize the pressure inside the home into smaller areas. This reduces the pressure on your roof and helps it stay intact.
- Secure weak or damaged carports or other structures. Use appropriate brackets, bolts and anchors to strengthen connections to the foundation or carport slab.

Reduce flying debris.

- Secure weak or loose fencing.
- Trim trees and shrubs by removing any weak or overgrown tree limbs and branches.
- Secure or find a safe place for your outdoor items, such as lawn furniture, potted plants and tools. Anchor heavy objects into the ground.

Direct water away from your home.

- Line the perimeter of your home with sandbags to help divert moving water.
- Clear debris from gutters, downspouts and storm drains to direct rainfall away from your home.
- Make sure sump pumps are working, and charge their batteries. Clear the drains.

Reduce water damage risk.

- Caulk and seal windows, doors, outlets, gas lines, chimneys, skylights and other roof penetrations.
- Move furniture, electronic devices and items that are valuable or sentimental to higher ground. Basements and first-floor levels are most at risk of flooding.
- Raise all appliances, such as stoves, washers and dryers, off the ground floor using masonry blocks or concrete. Be mindful of gas or electrical lines.
- Remove area rugs from floors so they won't get wet and grow mold or mildew.

Prepare for power loss.

- Prepare and test your generator.
- Store generator fuel in an approved safety can outside the home.

Start a digital list of your belongings.

- Don't get overwhelmed; start with one room and work your way around.
- Try to get pictures or video of serial numbers and models.
- It's better to have a partial list than nothing at all.