

Homeowner Hurricane Check List

What to do before a hurricane is forecasted:

- Learn the elevation of your property and whether the land is flood-prone. That way you know how your property will be affected when a storm surge or tidal flooding are forecasted for your area.
- Identify if there are any levees and dams in your area and determine whether they pose a hazard to you.
- Learn your community hurricane evacuation routes and know how to find higher ground. Determine where you would go and how you would get there if you need to evacuate. Check with local community leaders on where in your town or city they will have emergency shelters set up.
- Keep trees and shrubs around your home well-trimmed, making them more wind resistant.
- Make sure your rain gutters and downspouts are clear of debris.
- Determine how and where to secure a boat, if you own one.
- Build an “[Emergency Kit](#)” and make a “[Family Communication Plan.](#)”
- If you have pets develop a plan of where your pets will stay during the storm.

When a hurricane is imminent and you need to secure your home:

- Board up windows. Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection for windows. A second option is to board up windows with 5/8' marine plywood. The National Hurricane Center strongly advises that you do not tape your windows.
- Secure any loose objects that are outside your house like patio furniture, garbage cans, decorations, and hanging plants, by bringing them indoors or storing them in sheds. Loose items can be thrown around by the winds and can damage your property or the property of your neighbors.
- If your home is located in an area prone to flood waters move furniture and fixtures to the highest level in your house.
- If you have to evacuate your home, turn off the water and utilities to your house. Make sure that water pipes are drained so if there is a loss of power your water lines do not freeze.