

WHAT TO DO BEFORE A HURRICANE

Be Informed. Make a Plan. Build a Kit.

Secure your property

- Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection for windows.
- A second option is to board up windows with 5/8" marine plywood, cut to fit and ready to install.
- Consider installing straps or additional clips to securely fasten your roof to the frame structure.
- Ensure trees and shrubs around your home are well trimmed.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- Secure outdoor furniture, potted plants, lawn ornaments, and barbecue grills.
- Top off your vehicles with gas, especially if there is a possibility that you will need to evacuate.
- Get cash from the bank/ATM in preparation for power outages – electronic transactions will not be possible without electricity.
- Charge your mobile phones, batteries, and other electronic devices.
- If available, refuel and check the working condition of your generator and other backup power supplies.
- If possible, refill prescription medications and other necessary over-the-counter medications.
- Create or restock your [Disaster Supply Kit](#) and keep it in an easily accessible place.
- Secure your home, close storm shutters, and secure or bring inside outdoor objects such as grills and patio furniture.
- Turn off propane tanks if evacuating to another location.
- Moor your boat if time permits.
- Ensure a supply of water for sanitary purposes such as cleaning and flushing toilets. Fill the bathtub and other large containers with water.

What to do during a hurricane

- Locate your [Disaster Supply Kit](#).
- Monitor radio or TV for information.
- Turn the refrigerator thermostat to its coldest setting and keep its doors closed.
- Avoid using the phone, except for serious emergencies.
- Check in with family/friends so they know your location and that you are safe.
- Follow the directions of local emergency management.

Evacuate under the following conditions

- If local authorities direct you to do so. Be sure to follow their instructions.
- If you live in a mobile home or temporary structure. Such shelters are particularly hazardous during hurricanes no matter how well fastened to the ground.
- If you live in a high-rise building. Hurricane winds are stronger at higher elevations.
- If you live on the coast, on a floodplain, near a river, or on an inland waterway.
- If you feel you are in danger.

If you are unable to evacuate

- Stay indoors during the hurricane and away from windows and glass doors.
- Close all interior doors. Secure and brace external doors.
- Keep curtains and blinds closed. Calm winds do not indicate the end of the storm. As the eye of the storm passes over, winds will become still and then reverse as the back side of the hurricane moves over the area.
- Remain calm.

