

Hurricane Home Preparedness Checklist

A practical pre-storm checklist for protecting your home, supplies, family, pets and evacuation plan.

KNOW YOUR RISK & PLAN

- Know whether your home is in a hurricane evacuation or storm-surge zone.
- Identify at least two evacuation routes and a destination outside the danger area.
- Know where official local emergency alerts and evacuation orders will be posted.
- Review homeowners/renters and flood insurance coverage before hurricane season.
- Photograph important possessions and store insurance/contact information securely.
- Make a family communication plan, including an out-of-area contact.

PROTECT THE HOUSE

- Inspect the roof and repair loose, damaged or missing roofing materials.
- Plan approved protection for windows and glass doors before a storm threatens.
- Inspect exterior doors, locks, hinges and weather sealing.
- Check the garage door and know how it will be secured.
- Clean gutters and downspouts and direct drainage away from the house.
- Secure or bring inside patio furniture, grills, tools, decorations and other wind hazards.
- Trim hazardous limbs and inspect trees near the house, driveway and utility lines.
- Secure sheds, outbuildings and outdoor equipment.
- Move valuables and important supplies higher if flooding is possible.

POWER, WATER & FOOD

- Charge phones, power banks and rechargeable lights before conditions deteriorate.
- Place flashlights/headlamps where household members can find them in the dark.
- Test the emergency radio and keep backup power options available.
- Store emergency drinking water before stores become crowded or supplies disappear.
- Keep a backup method for filtering or treating water.
- Stock shelf-stable foods that require little water, cooking or refrigeration.
- Know how you will safely manage refrigerated and frozen food during an outage.
- If using a generator, plan safe outdoor placement well away from doors, windows and vents.
- Make sure working carbon-monoxide alarms are installed in appropriate locations.

EVACUATION READINESS

- Keep the vehicle fueled and check tires, battery and basic fluids.
- Pack a 72-hour go-bag for each household member.
- Include medications, identification, cash, chargers and copies of essential documents.
- Prepare carriers, food, water, medications and identification for pets.
- Know where you will go if hotels or your first destination are unavailable.
- If evacuating by RV, verify fuel, route clearance, water, power and alternate shelter options.
- Leave early when officials order evacuation or local conditions make staying unsafe.

FINAL 24 HOURS

- Follow official forecasts, watches, warnings and local emergency instructions.
- Finish securing outdoor items before winds become dangerous.
- Fill appropriate water containers and top off vehicle fuel if safe to do so.
- Charge electronics and place emergency lighting within easy reach.

- Set refrigerator/freezer to colder settings before an expected outage.
- Move vehicles and valuables away from known flood-prone areas when practical.
- Confirm evacuation bags, medications, documents, pet supplies and keys are ready.
- Tell your out-of-area contact your plan and destination.

AFTER THE STORM

- Wait for official guidance before returning to an evacuated area.
- Avoid floodwater and never drive through flooded roads.
- Watch for downed power lines, damaged trees, unstable structures and gas leaks.
- Do not use generators, grills or other fuel-burning equipment indoors or in enclosed spaces.
- Follow local drinking-water advisories before using tap water.
- Photograph property damage before cleanup when it is safe to do so.
- Take reasonable temporary steps to prevent additional damage while documenting repairs.
- Check on family, neighbors and pets without entering unsafe areas.

Reminder: Follow evacuation orders and instructions from local emergency officials. Prepare early so the final hours before a storm are for execution, not shopping.