

Hurricane Preparation Checklist

When preparing for any disaster, it's a good idea to create a "Survival Kit"; this is a group of items that will be ready for use should a disaster occur. For a hurricane, the kit should include:

- Canned or other non-perishable food
- Non-electric can opener
- First aid kit and manual
- Portable radio and/or television
- Flashlights
- Extra batteries
- Water in non-breakable containers
- Prescription medicines as needed
- Extra clothing and blankets
- Emergency cash and credit cards



Steps to Take

Before

- Understand the difference between a hurricane watch and a hurricane warning. A hurricane watch means that a hurricane may occur within the next 24 to 36 hours. A hurricane warning means that a hurricane will probably strike your area within the next 24 hours.
- Prepare a survival kit.
- Plan your evacuation route in advance of the storm.
- Close storm shutters and board up all windows.
- Stock up on drinking water and non-perishable goods.
- Have a supply of batteries and be sure you have flashlights and a portable radio in good working condition.
- Review how to shut off utilities in an emergency with all family members.
- Secure all outdoor objects or move them inside.
- Secure your boat or move it to a safer place.
- Fuel your car in case you must leave immediately.

During

- Listen to the radio for important storm information and instructions.
- If at home, stay inside and away from all windows, skylights and glass doors. **Do not go outside**, even if the weather appears to have calmed. The "eye" of the storm can pass quickly, leaving you outside when strong winds resume
- If you must evacuate, **leave as soon as possible** and be sure to tell someone outside of the storm area where you will be.

After

- Stay tuned to the radio or television. If you have had to evacuate, return home only after authorities advise it is safe to do so.
- Beware and check for gas leaks or electrical system damage.
- Make temporary repairs as necessary.
- Make temporary repairs, including, securing your home from further damage.
- As soon as sunny weather returns, open windows and doors to dry things out.
- Add fans and keep sump pumps clean and operating.
- Use a mild bleach solution to clean up areas that have gotten wet to inhibit mold growth.
- When you venture out, avoid downed power lines, and be wary of large puddles. They might be hiding downed power lines.

