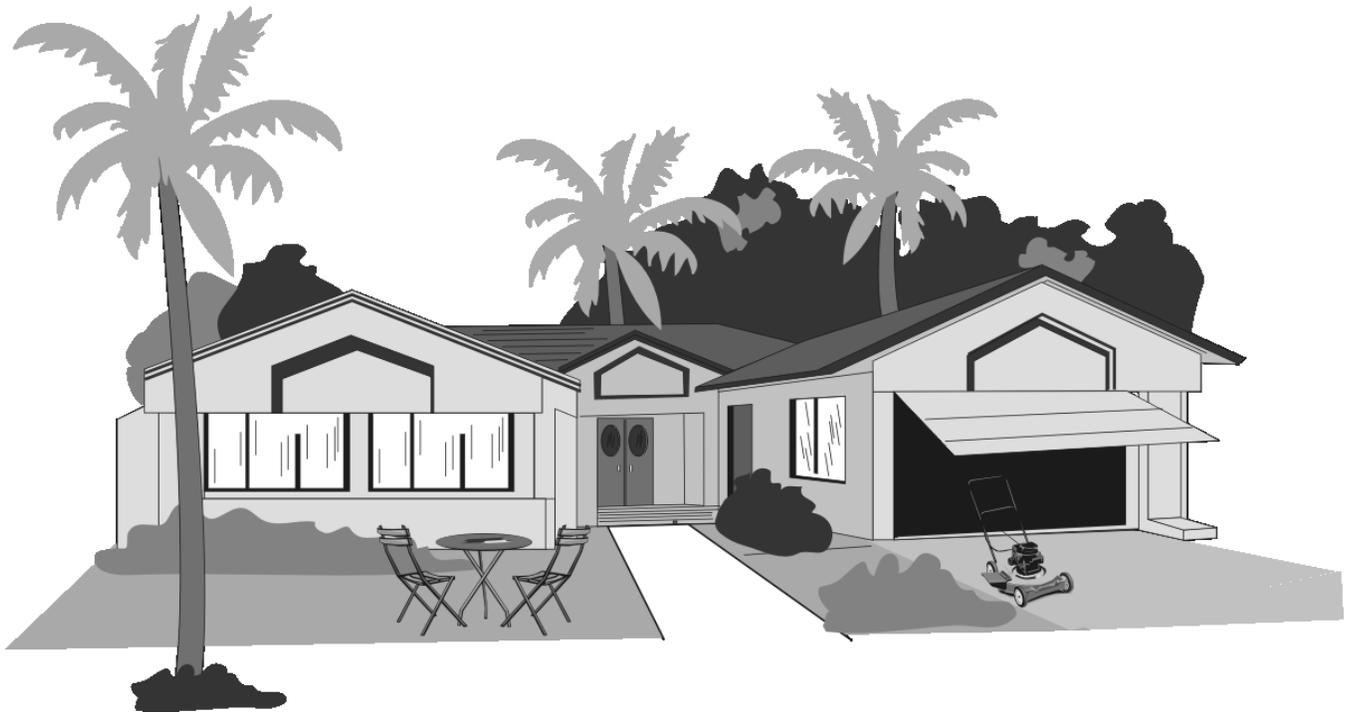


How Safe is Your House?¹

Hal S. Knowles, III, Kathleen C. Ruppert, Karla A. Lenfesty, and Barbara Haldeman²

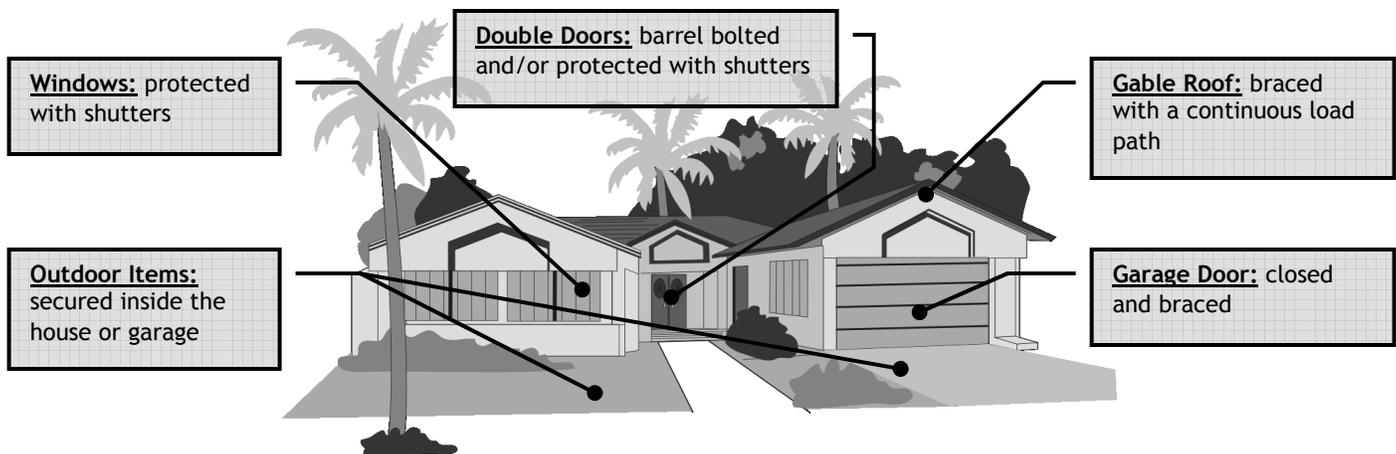
Living with hurricanes is a common event for Florida's residents. Researchers have found four major areas where homes commonly fail as a result of hurricane force winds. Proper hurricane preparation takes action to strengthen these areas.

What Should Be Done to Prepare this House for a Hurricane?
(Hint: Turn to the back for answers)



1. This document is Part 1 of 5 in the Education + Action = Wind Mitigation series. Publication date: November 2005.
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To learn more about these items, ask a County Cooperative Extension agent for the individual documents in this series.

What Can You Do to Prepare Yourself?

All families should have a disaster kit ready before a storm hits. Refresh your kit every 6 months. Here's a checklist so you can be prepared whether you evacuate or stay home:

- Seven-day supply of food that does not need refrigeration or cooking.
- Seven-day supply of water (one gallon per person per day).
- Seven-day supply of clean clothes and shoes.
- Sleeping items (blankets, pillows, etc.).
- Toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, deodorant, shampoo/conditioner, etc.).
- Cash (in case ATMs/banks are closed).
- First aid kit (including basic medicines and prescription drugs).
- Operable vehicle with a full gas tank.
- Radio (battery powered or wind-up).
- Flashlight (battery powered or wind-up).
- Spare batteries.
- Tools (for basic car and/or house repair).
- Important documents stored in a waterproof container (medical records, insurance records, Social Security cards, etc.)
- Pet care items (food, water, cage, leash, immunization record, etc.).
- Any other specialty items.

Some protective measures can bring insurance savings in Florida. Visit the Florida Department of Community Affairs Web site for more info: www.FloridaWindIncentives.org.

Other Resources

For additional information on ways to prepare your property and your family for a hurricane, we recommend the following Web sites:

University of Florida | Disaster Handbook
<http://disaster.ifas.ufl.edu/>

University of Florida | Storm Preparation for Landscapes
<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/stormprep.htm>

Federal Alliance for Safe Homes
www.flash.org

Federal Emergency Management Agency | Disaster Prevention & Preparation Library
www.fema.gov/library/prepandprev.shtm

Florida Division of Emergency Management | Information Page
www.floridadisaster.org/DEMinformation.htm

Institute for Business and Home Safety
www.ibhs.org