



HOMEOWNER WINDSTORM DAMAGE MITIGATION CHECKLIST

ASSESS YOUR VULNERABILITIES: REDUCE THE CHANCE THAT WIND AND WATER WILL DAMAGE YOUR HOME

To better mitigate the damage from hurricanes, have a plan for your home, as well one for your family. Include the necessary tools and supplies to prepare for, survive and recover from a windstorm event; update your insurance (homeowner's and flood); and create an inventory and detailed description of your property. In addition to your own evaluation, you may wish to consult with a building professional and/or building inspector. Each home is unique. Use the following checklist only as a resource guide.

WINDOWS

- 1. NO WINDOW PROTECTION - Need professionally installed shutters that meet building code. Ordered [ ] Installed [ ]
2. HAVE EXISTING WINDOW PROTECTION/SHUTTERS - All System parts are in working order: window panels are labeled, tracks are clean, hardware (wing-nuts, bolts, and anchors) and tools are ready and accessible for installation. Yes [ ] No [ ]
3. USING PLYWOOD - Panels are prepared and labeled and permanent stainless steel anchors are installed around the windows. All hardware and tools are ready and accessible for installation. Yes [ ] No [ ]

DOORS

- 4. A NEWER ENTRY DOOR (including side-entry garage doors) is rated for wind pressure and flying debris (bought as a new code approved door, or has a sticker stating wind pressures and debris impact). \*\*Unless a door was manufactured after 1994, it is likely not rated for pressure. Doors that swing out withstand wind pressure better than those that swing in.
- Type: Solid Core Wood or Metal? Wood [ ] Metal [ ]
- Type: Raised Panel Wooden Door? (Vulnerable to splitting when hit by debris. Consider replacing or protecting with shutters.) Yes [ ] No [ ]
- Doors that are NOT RATED, HOLLOW CORE, or have a WINDOW(s) need shutter protection. Are the shutters and hardware accessible for installation? Yes [ ] No [ ]
- Is the threshold well attached to the floor and/or have any of the anchors/screws worked their way loose? Yes [ ] No [ ]
- Is the door water tight? Yes [ ] No [ ]
- Check for gaps, cracks and sunlight (weather stripping, sweeps, warping) Yes [ ] No [ ]
5. HINGES AND SCREWS/BOLTS - check for strength
- Each door has at least three (3) hinges. Yes [ ] No [ ]
- The door has a security lock with a dead bolt at least 1" long that penetrates into the wall framing beyond the door jamb. Yes [ ] No [ ]
- Is the strike plate well anchored (may need longer screws)? Yes [ ] No [ ]
6. DOUBLE DOORS - refer to #5 above. Additionally, the inactive door should have upper and lower barrel bolts that penetrate through the door jamb into the header and through the bottom threshold into the sub floor. Yes [ ] No [ ]
7. SLIDING DOOR(s) - the tracks are clean and working, and it has shutter protection that is readily accessible, including the hardware and tools for installation. Yes [ ] No [ ]
8. GARAGE DOORS - You have a newer garage door and tracks that are FL Building Code approved for both wind pressure and impact protection
- If you live in an older house, you may need to brace, shutter or replace your garage door.
o The garage door has shutter or screen protection (rated for wind pressure and debris impact.) Yes [ ] No [ ]
o The garage door has a vertical bracing system (supports door against wind pressure.) Yes [ ] No [ ]
o The garage door has windows and/or panels? (Shutters are needed to protect glass.) Yes [ ] No [ ]
o The garage door has a horizontal bracing system. Yes [ ] No [ ]
o You know how to turn off power to the garage door and open it without power. Yes [ ] No [ ]
\*\*NOTE: additional horizontal bracing adds weight to a door and may require replacing the door motor. It is worthwhile to hire a qualified contractor to install the necessary bracing or replace an exiting door with a new wind rated door.

**ROOF**

- 9. **TYPE/DESIGN**
  - Hip Roof Hip  Gable
  - Gable Roof
    - a. Has gable end bracing, and Yes  No
    - b. Cross bracing, and/or Yes  No
    - c. Horizontal truss bracing Yes  No
- 10. **HURRICANE STRAPS/PLATES** Yes  No
- 11. **CONTINUOUS LOAD PATH** – the roof is anchored to the wall, second floor to the first and walls to the foundation. Yes  No
- 12. **GABLE END VENT(S)** – Has shutter protection Yes  No
- 13. **SHEATHING AND SHINGLES Are PROPERLY ATTACHED** Yes  No
- 14. **SHINGLES, TILES** – Checked for lose tabs/tiles, cracks, broken or missing tabs/tiles, curling or buckling of tabs or shingles, blistering, tabs with most of the granules worn off. Yes  No   
*\*\*NOTE: To increase sheathing to truss strength – apply wood adhesive (APA AFG01) underneath the sheathing along the connecting joint with the roof trusses or have polyurethane foam applied.*
- 15. **PENETRATIONS (all types of vent pies, chimneys)** – are well sealed and tight Yes  No
- 16. **RIDGE VENTS** are screwed down and tight Yes  No   
*\*\* NOTE - replace nails with stainless steel screws of larger diameter threads than existing holes and are long enough to go through deck.*
- 17. **OFF RIDGE VENTS – TURBINE** – has extra anchor screws or remove and secure with a cover/cap that can be attached before a hurricane Yes  No
- 18. **CHECK FOR SIGNS OF ROOF/WATER LEAKS**
  - From inside the attic – look at/for the decking, around vents, penetrations, valleys, and slope changes. Yes  No
  - From inside the house – look at/for ceilings, cracked wall or ceiling paint, discolored ceiling or wall board, peeling wall paper near ceiling Yes  No
  - Skylights – has some type of shutter/covering Yes  No
- 19. **GUTTERS/DOWNSPOUTS** are secured, cleaned, and drainage is directed away from house Yes  No

**OPENINGS TO SEAL (to prevent water intrusion)**

- 20. **WINDOWS AND DOORS** – Caulk and weather strip Yes  No
- 21. **HOLES** where wire, cables and pipes enter and/or exit the house (i.e., cable TV, telephone, AC lines, water pipes, and water heater pressure relief lines.) Yes  No
- 22. **ELECTRICAL BOXES AND CIRCUIT BREAKER PANELS** Yes  No
- 23. **SPACES AND CRACKS** around dryer vents, bathroom and kitchen vents, wall outlets, other electrical devices such as wall lights Yes  No

**OUTSIDE and LANDSCAPING**

- 24. **ASSESS AND HAVE A PLAN** to anchor down or move to the inside anything that can become a missile (patio furniture, lawn ornaments, satellite dish/TV antenna, Barbecue, large ceramic/plant pots, etc.) Yes  No
- 25. **REPLACE GRAVEL/ROCK LANDSCAPING** materials with shredded bark to reduce damage. (Small rocks and stones become missiles that can break house/car windows.) Yes  No
- 26. **KEEP TREES AND SHRUBBERY TRIMMED.** Clear away yard debris, including any tree limbs or objects that could be picked up by high winds. Trim dead or weak branches from trees. Don't trim right before a hurricane, unless you can store/bring debris inside. Yes  No
- 27. **YOU HAVE SUPPLIES AND TOOLS FOR CLEAN-UP AND REPAIRS** (i.e., tarps; nails; screws; drills; saws; shingles; plywood; brooms; rakes; cleaning solutions; etc.) Yes  No

1. This document/checklist compiled and designed by the University of Florida/ St. Lucie County Cooperative Extension Service.  
 2. Karla Lenfesty, Windstorm Damage Mitigation Program Specialist  
 3. Resources: Florida Division of Emergency Management – [www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org);  
 My Safe Florida Home – Other Resources – [www.mysafefloridahome.org](http://www.mysafefloridahome.org); and The Federal Alliance for Safe Homes – [www.flash.org](http://www.flash.org)

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