



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;

My Safe Florida Home – Other Resources – www.mysafefloridahome.org; and The Federal Alliance for Safe Homes – www.flash.org

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