

Hurricane Checklist

A before, during and after hurricane checklist to protect your home, supplies and family.

Before: Prepare Your Home

- Install storm shutters or board up windows with plywood
- Bring in or secure outdoor furniture, grills and loose items
- Clear gutters, drains and downspouts of debris
- Trim trees and remove dead branches near the house
- Move valuables and electronics to higher floors
 - Helps protect them if flooding reaches the lower level
- Know how to shut off water, gas and electricity

Before: Stock Supplies

- Store one gallon of water per person per day for several days
- Keep a three-day or longer supply of non-perishable food
- Fill prescriptions and stock a first aid kit
- Charge phones and power banks and gather flashlights
- Get cash in small bills in case card systems are down
- Fill bathtubs and containers with water for cleaning and flushing

Before: Plan to Evacuate

- Know your evacuation zone and at least two routes out
- Fuel your vehicles and check tires before roads fill up
- Pack a go-bag for each person, plus pets and medications
- Identify pet-friendly shelters or lodging in advance
- Leave early if an evacuation order is issued

During: Stay Safe Indoors

- Stay inside, away from windows, skylights and glass doors
- Shelter in an interior room on the lowest safe floor
- Keep a battery or hand-crank radio on for official updates
- Do not go outside during the calm eye of the storm
 - Dangerous winds resume suddenly from the opposite direction
- Turn off propane and unplug appliances if flooding nears
- Avoid using candles; use flashlights to prevent fires

After: Assess Safely

- Wait for the official all-clear before going outside
- Stay away from downed power lines and report them
- Never drive or walk through floodwater
- Check for gas leaks, structural damage and contaminated water
- Use generators only outdoors, far from windows and doors
- Document damage with photos and contact your insurer