



PREPARE YOUR HOME



Hurricane research studies have shown that on average; homes built under the 2002 Florida Building Code sustained less damage and when paired with shutters may be safe to stay in as long as they are not in an evacuation area. Homes built between 1994 and 2001 under the Standard Building Code sustained more damage and homes built before 1994 fared even worse. Before storm season begins, take the following steps to protect your home:

- ▶ Secure loose rain gutters and downspouts, and clear clogged areas or debris.
- ▶ Secure and reinforce your roof, windows and doors, including garage doors.
- ▶ Consider building a FEMA safe room designed for protection from high winds and flood waters.
- ▶ Learn how and when to turn off gas, water and electricity. Never burn candles or oil lamps during the storm even if the power is off.
- ▶ Keep in mind your Wi-Fi will only work if electricity is on. Many router boxes have external batteries that will keep Wi-Fi running for a limited period of time if power is interrupted. Contact your local cable/Internet provider for more information.

Mobile or Manufactured Homes

YOU MUST EVACUATE IF YOU LIVE IN A MOBILE HOME OR RECREATIONAL VEHICLE.

Mobile homes are unsafe shelter in high winds no matter how well fastened to the ground. Take precautions to ensure

that your mobile home is properly secured to reduce possible damage to your home and your neighbor's property.

- ▶ Check tie-downs annually. Make sure straps are tight, properly aligned and not on an angle.
- ▶ Verify that ground anchors and stabilizer plates have been installed properly.
- ▶ Be sure support piers are in contact with the frame.
- ▶ Replace straps or ground anchors that show signs of corrosion or damage.

For detailed information or to verify a contractor's license, call the **Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, Bureau of Mobile Home and Recreational Vehicle Construction at 850-617-3004.**

CHECKLIST FOR SHELTERING IN PLACE

- Clean bathtub or other large containers and fill with water.
- Drinking water, one gallon per person, per day, for at least three days.
- Canned food and a can opener.
- Paper items.
- Baby needs.
- Medications, prescriptions and a first aid kit.
- Battery-operated television or radio, flashlight and extra batteries.
- Cash (ATMs may be out-of-service).
- Pet supplies.
- Photocopies of important documents (birth certificate, license and insurance).
- Full tank of gasoline in your car.
- Cell phone/tablet supplies (power bank/external battery charger(s); car phone charger (be sure to charge the phone in your car only while it is running to preserve the car battery).
- Battery operated fans with extra batteries.

Most of these items can be purchased during tax-free week prior to the start of hurricane season. Learn more at floridarevenue.com.

IF MY HOME IS DAMAGED, HOW DO I GET HELP?

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Apply by telephone to:

- ▶ 800-621-FEMA (3362)
- ▶ TTY 800-462-7585
- ▶ 711 or VRS 800-621-3362

Have the following information and a pen and paper ready when you call:

- ▶ Social Security number (you or a member of your household must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national or qualified alien).
- ▶ Homeowner, flood, automobile, and/or mobile home insurance policy.
- ▶ Description of the damage caused by the disaster and the type of dwelling or vehicle (like a condo, mobile home or house, or a car or truck).
- ▶ Total annual household income, before taxes, at the time of the disaster.
- ▶ Address and phone number of the property where the damage occurred and the address and phone number of where you can currently be reached.
- ▶ Direct deposit information. If assistance is approved, FEMA can deposit funds directly into your bank account with the following information:
 - ▶ Bank name
 - ▶ Type of account (like checking or savings)
 - ▶ Routing number
 - ▶ Account number

Operation Blue Roof

Operation Blue Roof is a FEMA program that provides a temporary covering of blue plastic sheeting to help reduce further damage to property until permanent repairs can be made. The program is available at no cost to homeowners in FEMA-designated areas after a storm. Homeowners must sign a Right of Entry form to allow government employees and contractors onto their property to assess damage and install the temporary covering.

Eligibility

- ▶ Primary residences with standard shingled roofs.
- ▶ Metal roofs and mobile homes as practical on a case-by-case basis only.
- ▶ Roofs with greater than 50 percent structural damage are NOT eligible for this program.

- ▶ Rental properties, with legal permission from the property owner. Renters must also obtain legal permission from their landlord to continue occupying the residence until more permanent repairs are made.

Insurance

Insurance companies will send special disaster assistance teams, as will the state and federal government, to perform damage assessments. To prepare for a claim:

- ▶ Take pictures or video before the storm of your home and contents.
- ▶ Take pictures of the damage, both to the property and its contents.
- ▶ Have all your insurance documents ready.
- ▶ Do not pay for any services until repair work has been completed.

Always hire a licensed contractor


Unlicensed contracting is a felony during a state of emergency. To verify a contractor's license, or to file a complaint against a contractor:


- ▶ The Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR)
1-850-487-1395, or MyFloridaLicense.com
- ▶ Sarasota County Planning and Development Services, Building and Permitting, call 311 or email licensing@scgov.net



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