



from debris that might prevent rain water runoff

from going through your down pipes during the

torrential rains that come with some hurricanes.

Although tape can prevent glass from shattering



Prepare Now - Don't Wait

Don't wait until a hurricane watch is issued, because it may already be too late to take certain precautions to protect your home and property from the onslaught of a hurricane. Reduce property damage and get through any hurricane emergency with less stress by preparing NOW.

Hurricane force winds can turn landscaping materials into missiles that can break windows and doors. Much of the property damage associated with hurricanes occurs during and after the hurricane when rain enters structures through broken windows, doors and openings in the roof.

Preparing your Home for Hurricane Season

Remove any branches that overhang or touch the house. Pruning reduces wind resistance in trees, which makes them less likely to be blown down. Keep shrubbery trimmed, especially around window openings. Do this early enough so the trimmings can be hauled off before a hurricane. The time to trim back is at the beginning of hurricane season. If you wait until a hurricane is approaching, your municipality may not be able to pick-up your cuttings in time, and they could become projectiles in a major storm. If any of your trees are near power lines, hire a professional tree trimmer or have the utility company come out now to do the work. Use soft mulch materials, like shredded bark, which does less damage in a storm than loose stones or gravel that could become airborne. Install storm shutters to protect your windows from breakage, or fit plywood panels to your windows that are made from exterior grade or marine plywood that's at least five-eighths of an inch thick. Allow 4 inches or more for overlap. П Make sure exterior doors are hurricane proof and have at least three hinges and a dead bolt lock. Sliding glass doors should be made of tempered glass and, during a storm, covered with shutters or plywood. These types of doors are much more vulnerable to wind damage than most other doors. П Check garage doors and tracks; Check to make sure your garage is approved for both wind pressure and impact protection. Consider having special braces for your garage door from an licensed contractor, Wind coming into your home through an opening this large poses grave problems for the rest of your home—especially your roof. Check to make sure you can manually open your garage door with ease should you loose power and need to open the garage door after a storm passes. Protect attached structures. Make sure carports, porches and decks, entry canopies and sheds are structurally sound and firmly attached by local code and guidelines. Make sure all outside wall openings such as windows, vents, outdoor electrical outlets, garden hose bibs and locations where cables or pipes go through the wall are properly sealed. Use a high quality urethane-based caulk to prevent water penetration. Wind-driven rain can cause moisture damage in your home, even when the structure remains intact. Bring in all lose items out in the yard. Potted plants, grills, bird baths, solar lights, lawn/patio

light-weight items that can easily become air-born

Clean out and make sure your rain gutters are free

missiles in high winds.

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everywhere, tape does not prevent the window from breaking. Shutters or wood paneling are best to use to protect windows during a hurricane. Inspect your roof if possible. Be careful if you walk on your roof, inspecting all openings such as attic fans and make sure the attic fan coverings are hurricane rated. Screened-in Patios. Remove and secure all furniture and loose items. Hanging fans - remove the fan blades from the fan. For carports, remove all items except a car. High winds will whip and flow into a carport, so anything light-weight such as garage cans and other small items will become airborne during a storm, causing damage to your vehicle parked there as well as your home. Be sure to lock all valuables and personal papers in a waterproof container. Check insurance policy for protection in case of flood or wind damage. Have your insurance contact phone numbers ready and available and place the policy papers in a waterproof container. Once a hurricane warning is issued, set refrigerator and freezer to the coldest temperature and fill zip lock bags with water and place inside your freezer. Pack your freezer with these as they will help keep any food cold for a short duration should you loose power. Locate your water, gas (if applicable) and electricity shut-off and keep in mind their locations just in case an emergency arises during or after a storm and you need to shut them off quickly. Flashlight with Extra batteries located in different sections of your home. Consider a small LED flashlight for each member of your family. Also, make them easy to find in the dark by using glow-inthe-dark tape or paint which will make the flashlight easy to find when the power goes out. Adhesivebacked tape holds its radiance for hours after exposure to light. Find it at home centers or online.

IMPORTANT

Protecting windows, door openings, roofs and garage doors are the most important steps that you can take to secure your home for any storm.

Take Pictures of Your Home, Inside & Out

Using your cell phone or any camera, take pictures of the inside and outside of your home prior to any storm that approaches.

Exterior -

- Take pictures of your home's roof from all sides of vour home.
- Take pictures of all exterior walls. Take pictures of your garage door both open and closed, from the outside and inside.

Interior -

- Take panoramic pictures of each room. Take pictures of kitchen appliances; refrigerator, stove/oven, freezers etc..
- Take pictures of other electrical items, noting brand, model number and serial numbers if possible. NOTE: Making a list of your appliances, model numbers, serial numbers, as well as other electronic equipment like TVs, Stereo components and computers will facilitate the filing of a claim with your insurance agency if needed. Make copies of this list, placing one copy with your insurance policy in a water-proof container.
- Take pictures of any other specialty items such as paintings, works of art and those items.

IMPORTANT MISC ITEMS

