**SEASONAL PREP**

- **REVIEW INSURANCE POLICY**
  - Keep agent’s contact info in your phone.
  - Know what your policy covers and what it doesn’t.

- **SECURE SOFFITS**
  - Install stainless steel screws through fascia to the soffit.
  - Apply polyurethane sealant over screws and let dry for 72 hours.

- **INSPECT ROOF AND RESOLVE LEAKS**
  - Have your roof inspected to ensure it can withstand hurricane season.
  - Check for unsealed shingles that are vulnerable to wind and rain.
  - Install flashing around skylights to keep water out.
  - If leaking, replace flashing around your chimney and valley.

- **TRIM TREES**
  - Remove branches that overhang the house, as well as dead, dying, or diseased trees.

- **SELECT A WIND-RATED GARAGE DOOR**
  - Choose a wind-rated door to withstand storm pressures.
  - If you’re unsure if your door is wind-rated, purchase a new one. If replacement is not possible, temporarily reinforce it with a brace.

  Learn more at [disastersafety.org/garagedoor](http://disastersafety.org/garagedoor)

- **PURCHASE HURRICANE SHUTTERS**
  - Choose code-conforming hurricane shutters to cover windows.
  - **Note:** Plywood should only be used in place of shutters as a last-minute resort when tropical weather is imminent.

- **GET A WHOLE-HOME GENERATOR**
  - A generator will keep power on, regardless of weather.

- **SEAL GAPS AND CRACKS**
  - Keep water out by sealing gaps and cracks with silicone caulk.
  - Check exterior walls around windows, doors, electrical boxes, vents, and pipes.

- **CHECK YOUR GUTTERS**
  - Clean any debris from your gutters.
  - Extend downspouts away from the house to divert water.

- **ADD IMPORTANT CONTACTS TO YOUR PHONE AND TELL OTHERS YOUR PLAN**
  - Store your insurance agent’s contact information in your phone.
  - Let loved ones know where you plan to go.

- **CREATE HOME INVENTORY**
  - Create a detailed list or video of belongings for insurance purposes.
  - Turn on location services when taking photos or videos to verify location of your items.

- **PUT UP SHUTTERS ON WINDOWS**
  - Get shutters in place ahead of the storm.

- **GET RELIABLE WEATHER INFO AND ALERTS**
  - Follow National Hurricane Center via social and watch local news.
  - Enable wireless emergency alerts on your cell phone. Learn more at [weather.gov/wrn/wea](http://weather.gov/wrn/wea)

- **TIDY UP OUTDOORS**
  - Secure loose fencing and mailboxes.
  - Bring items like bikes, benches, etc., into a garage or storage building.
  - Put pool furniture inside or into the pool.

- **CLOSE ALL DOORS AND WINDOWS**
  - Close all exterior and interior doors and windows, as well as the garage door all the way, to reduce force on the roof by as much as 30%.

- **CHECK YOUR GUTTERS**
  - Clean any debris from your gutters.
  - Extend downspouts away from the house to divert water.

- **SECURE SHINGLES ON YOUR ROOF**
  - Use stainless steel screws and a bit of sealant.
  - Reseal loose shingles around edge of the roof.

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**LAST-MINUTE PREP**

- **CLOSE ALL DOORS AND WINDOWS**
  - Close all exterior and interior doors and windows, as well as the garage door all the way, to reduce force on the roof by as much as 30%.

- **GET RELIABLE WEATHER INFO AND ALERTS**
  - Follow National Hurricane Center via social and watch local news.
  - Enable wireless emergency alerts on your cell phone. Learn more at [weather.gov/wrn/wea](http://weather.gov/wrn/wea)

- **TIDY UP OUTDOORS**
  - Secure loose fencing and mailboxes.
  - Bring items like bikes, benches, etc., into a garage or storage building.
  - Put pool furniture inside or into the pool.

- **CHECK YOUR GUTTERS**
  - Clean any debris from your gutters.
  - Extend downspouts away from the house to divert water.

- **SECURE SHINGLES ON YOUR ROOF**
  - Use stainless steel screws and a bit of sealant.
  - Reseal loose shingles around edge of the roof.
RENOVATING OR UPGRADING

☐ UPGRADE TO IMPACT-RESISTANT SKYLIGHTS
  • This will reduce the likelihood of damage.

☐ UPGRADE TO IMPACT-RATED WINDOWS
  • Stronger windows can better withstand high winds and flying debris.
  • Look for windows labeled as impact resistant.

☐ INSTALL A FORTIFIED ROOF
  • FORTIFIED building standards strengthen homes against severe water, reducing risk and loss.

RECOVERY

☐ PROTECT YOURSELF
  • Your safety is most important.
  • Always be careful when entering a damaged building. If there is serious structural damage, contact local officials before entering.
  • Report downed power lines or gas leaks. Keep electricity turned off if the building has been flooded.

☐ REPORT LOSSES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
  • Contact your insurance agent or insurer to describe the damage.
  • Have your policy number handy and write down the adjuster’s name, phone number, and work schedule.

☐ CLEAN UP SAFELY
  • Use protective eyewear and gloves when clearing debris.
  • Do not wade through standing water.
  • Avoid downed power lines and assume they are live.
  • Use generators safely.

☐ PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY
  • Even minor damage to your roof or building envelope can lead to water entering your building. You may be able to prevent further damage using a tarp.

☐ DOCUMENT DAMAGE
  • Document or keep damaged items.
  • Turn on location services when taking photos or video, which may help ease your claims process because it verifies the location of your items.

☐ KEEP RECEIPTS
  • Ease the claims process with good record-keeping.

☐ RETURN CLAIM FORMS
  • Your insurance company is required to send you claim forms within a certain number of days (varies by state). Fill out and return the forms as soon as possible.
  • If you do not understand the process, ask questions and write down the explanation.

REBUILD STRONGER

• Consider building back stronger with FORTIFIED Home™ to avoid repeat damage.

FORTIFIED
is a set of above-code building and retrofitting steps shown to strengthen homes against severe weather. Learn more at fortifiedhome.org.

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