



Hurricane Preparation Checklist

The purpose of this checklist is to provide you with some ideas as to what things can be accomplished before a hurricane hits in order to help lessen the damage to your home and property. This list should not be considered to be fully inclusive as I cannot foresee every eventuality for every property. But hopefully these items will cover some of the basic ideas and help you to spur some additional ideas that may apply to your specific property.

Note: Nothing in this list is suggesting that you should not evacuate if ordered to do so. In fact quite the opposite, many times if you are prepared ahead of time it is most beneficial to evacuate the area in advance of the mandatory order. That way you will have less traffic and can hopefully find hotel accommodations more easily to ride out the storm in safety.

Items to accomplish or have on hand before a hurricane hits:

1. If you live in a hurricane zone or an area that floods make sure to have Flood Insurance on your home. Normal home owners insurance will likely not cover damage from a hurricane or flood. Most counties will have a hydrographic map online that will show what areas typically flood.
2. Purchase NOAA Emergency Weather Alert Radio equipped with S.A.M.E. Localized Programming or something similar to this one: <https://amzn.to/2yB5ARn>. If a hurricane is spotted in your area this will help to alert you to the danger. This also works for other weather related disasters as well.
3. Identify levees and dams in your area and determine whether or not they pose a hazard to your home.
4. Make sure to have a Family Communication Plan. This plan should have your Primary, Alternate, Contingency and Emergency (PACE) methods of communication, pre-determined rally points, communications schedules, etc.
5. Learn community hurricane evacuation routes and how you would get there if you needed to evacuate. Know the routes you will use if you have to evacuate. Use PACE. If you are leaving late the official hurricane evacuation routes may not be the best choice. You may want to choose backroads out of town as they may be less congested.
6. Make hotel reservations several hours away.
7. Install weather monitoring and radar apps on cell phone so you can track the progress of the storm as it approaches landfall.
8. Install hurricane straps or additional hurricane clips to securely fasten your roof to the frame structure. This will help to reduce roof damage. If you are in a hurricane prone area is it likely required by local building code to install these during initial construction.



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9. Make sure to have a fully stocked first aid kit on hand ready to go.
10. Make sure to have a minimum of 8 gallons of drinking water on hand for each person per day for at least 2 weeks. And additional ways to gather, transport and purify additional water if needed.
11. Make sure to have at least two weeks worth of easily prepared food available. MRE's are great because they can be eaten raw or can be cooked using the included chemical heater packs, plus they do not require any plates, silverware, etc.
12. If you have small children or infants make sure to have extra diapers, baby food formula, wipes, etc for at least 2 weeks to a month as these items may be difficult to procure before, during and right after a hurricane.
13. Make a plan for dealing with and feeding pets and any live stock that you may own.
14. Preposition flashlights and candles in easy to reach places before the power goes out if you are planning on riding out the storm.
15. Make sure to have a well stocked Power Outage Kit: The kit can include a case or two of the glass devotional candles or candles in glass jars, led lanterns, led headlamps, extra batteries, and solar battery charger and rechargeable batteries, etc.
16. Make sure to have one or two good sized rechargeable battery banks for charging cell phones. Having a solar charger for these battery banks is also helpful because the power could be out for a couple weeks or so.
17. Check your generator's oil level and fill with gas. Make sure you have at least a two weeks worth of fuel (A medium sized generator will use at least 5 gallons per day), make sure to have electric transfer box installed on your home (and know how to use it) or plenty of extra extension cords to run from your generator to all of the items you are planning to power within your home as well.
18. Make sure to position your generator in a place that will not flood. As odd as it may sound it may be beneficial to take your generator up to the second floor of the home (don't use it indoors, just for storage before the storm) or at least put it high up on a work bench shelf. Many people have stored generators on the floor in their garages and come home to find them covered in water and useless.
19. Also make sure to have a chain and lock to be able to chain your generator to a truck bumper or some other permanent fixture so that it does not get stolen at night when you are not using it. Or bring it inside the garage when not in use.
20. Fill the gas tank in your vehicle and have an extra full tank of gas in gas cans for your vehicle as well. Having a truck or small trailer to be able to take some important



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items with you can also be helpful. (Hauling gasoline in the trunk of a car is not advisable).

21. Fill the propane bottle in your bbq grill so you can use it to cook with (also have at least one or two extra bottles on hand). Make sure to have it tied down or bring it inside so that it doesn't get blown away.
22. Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
23. Check the gutter down spouts on your home to make sure that they drain well away from your house (at least 6-8 feet from the foundation). You may need to add gutter extensions to them to drain water away from house. You can also use 4 inch black flexible drain pipe is pretty inexpensive and works well for this. Home Depot and Lowe's usually sell an adapter that will go from a rectangular gutter to the 4 inch black drain pipe so that hookup will be easy.
24. Withdraw about a month's worth of monthly expenses (at least several hundred dollars) worth of cash to have on hand in case ATMs run out of money during the emergency and because power may be out and the ATMs may not be operational.
25. Fill a clean bathtub with water, or use a Water Bob (link below). This will provide you with an additional 50 to 75 gallons of water that could be used for drinking (you may want to filter it before you drink it if you have a nasty tub) or it can be used for sanitation purposes.
26. Lay down or disassemble or move inside basketball goals, trampolines, picnic tables, lawn furniture, or other kids equipment so that it does not blow away. Bring items inside garage if they will fit.
27. Close hurricane shutters if you have them. If not consider getting plywood and cutting them to fit over windows. If that is not an option install hurricane/ballistic safety film over all of the windows (at least on the seaward side).
28. Check self defense options and make sure they are ready to go and you have ammunition on hand. Make sure safes are bolted to the wall/floor to help avoid looting issues. It may also be a good time to review your states self defense laws.
29. Make sure trees and shrubs are well trimmed, so they will be more wind resistant.
30. Reinforce garage doors with horizontal 2x4s to keep the wind from bending them inwards.
31. Bring in any and all small light items including garbage cans, yard decorations, decorative landscape fencing, solar lights, etc in the yard that could blow away or be damaged in heavy winds.
32. Prepare and fill sand bags if you know that you will take on water.



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33. Move furniture to the upper level of the home if you know it will flood.
34. Turn off the gas line to house.
35. Have a water trash pump (link below) or a submersible pump and hoses available to pump out water of lower levels of the home.
36. Have a boat, canoe, kayak, etc to use for local transportation if needed. Make sure it is properly stored in a garage or shed or tied down very well if stored outside, these will catch a lot of wind so having them inside is preferred.
37. Have bug out bags packed and ready to go for each member of the family.
38. If in a high-rise building, be prepared to take shelter on or below the 10th floor.
39. Consider building a safe room in your home that is stocked with supplies.
40. Make sure to have plenty of plastic sheeting, extra plywood, tarps, nails, screws, etc in case you are going to fix any damage and shelter in place.
41. Make sure to keep plenty of dust masks or N95 masks, on hand to help filter the musty mildew and mold out of the air. Charcoal lined N95 masks will also help to reduce some of the foul odors associated with flooding.
42. Have a good set of rain gear for each person that may be working out in the rain in advance or after the hurricane passes. Duck hunting hip waders may be valuable to have if you believe your area will flood.
43. For clean up make sure to have plenty of scrub brushes, chlorine bleach and other sanitizing agents for cleaning up.
44. Make sure to gather and update important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, wills, advance health and medical directives, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container. Also have electronic copies of those items stored on a flash drive and in a secure cloud.



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Below is a list of items that may be helpful to have on hand as well:

Mosquito Repellant: <http://amzn.to/2wKaauA>

Devotional Candles: <http://amzn.to/2xcG9qi>

Long Lighters: <http://amzn.to/2xQjFst>

Water bob: <http://amzn.to/2wJYfNI>

2 pack of Bushnell LED Headlamps: <http://amzn.to/2eHSw2p>

Small Honda Generator: <http://amzn.to/2j3SS8F>

Large Honda Generator: <http://amzn.to/2w9vUhz>

Security Window Film: <http://amzn.to/2wJWK1V>

NATO Style Gas Can: <http://amzn.to/2j4pQ8S>

Heavy Duty 100ft Extension Cord: <http://amzn.to/2w91a05>

Gutter Extensions: <http://amzn.to/2gOfjOg>

Tie Down Anchors: <http://amzn.to/2eHMZJc>

Sand Bags: <http://amzn.to/2eHzKs9>

Water Pump: <http://amzn.to/2xct3JH>

Water pump Hose: <http://amzn.to/2xQ62JO>

Suction Strainer: <http://amzn.to/2xPQCoI>

Coleman LED Lantern: <http://amzn.to/2xcdJga>

Anker Power Pack: <http://amzn.to/2wJZexh>

Sun Jack Portable Solar Panel Charger: <http://amzn.to/2xcd5KU>

Case of MREs: <http://amzn.to/2j4SDKE>

Katadyn Pocket Water Filter: <http://amzn.to/2xcjaMa>

Water Purification Tablets: <http://amzn.to/2gMNxs1>

Heavy Duty Trash Bags: <http://amzn.to/2wlrCBs>

5 gallon buckets for clean up of bailing water: <http://amzn.to/2el75Da>