

Storm Preparation & Landscaping Tips to Mitigate Damage

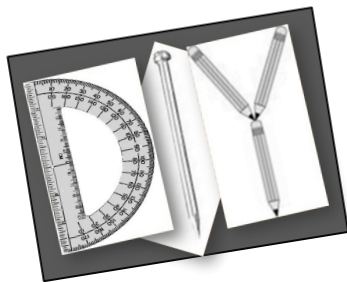
- ⇒ **Remove any outdoor items that may become wind-borne debris: children’s toys, pool and patio furniture, planters, lawn equipment, etc.**
- ⇒ **Trim tree limbs and branches that extend over your home’s roof and trim all foliage.**
- ⇒ **Replace gravel that could become wind-borne debris with landscaping mulch.**
- ⇒ **If you have a swimming pool, do not empty your pool before the storm. Keeping sufficient water levels in your pool provides the important weight to hold the sides and bottom in place.**
- ⇒ **To prevent water damage to surrounding structures, you may reduce the pool’s water level by 1-2 feet.**
- ⇒ **You should super chlorinate your pool prior to the storm.**
- ⇒ **Turn off all electrical pool equipment. All exposed electrical equipment such as pump motors should be tightly covered with plastic wrap.**
- ⇒ **Remove all loose items—pool furniture, toys, pool equipment.**
- ⇒ **Clean gutters to prevent water damage and ensure gutters are secure to the house.**

Create a Storm Kit & Have a Family Disaster Plan

- ⇒ A key ingredient for storm preparation is to create a storm kit that includes a three-day supply of food for your family and adequate pet supplies.
- ⇒ The storm kit should also include a battery-powered radio, flashlight, extra batteries, car charger for your cell phone and a manual can opener.
- ⇒ Be sure to include cash and important documents in your storm kit, such as insurance papers, birth certificates, passports, and important phone numbers.
- ⇒ Have a family disaster plan—know your evacuation route and locations of local shelters.

“Do-It-Yourself” Mitigation Techniques Checklist

- ⇒ Installing Temporary Emergency Shutters
- ⇒ Gable-end Bracing Techniques
- ⇒ Properly Securing Soffits
- ⇒ Selecting Roof Coverings to Minimize Wind-borne Debris & Water Damage
- ⇒ Strengthening Roof Sheathing & Decking
- ⇒ Adding Hurricane Clips & Straps
- ⇒ Securing Opening Protection—exterior doors, garage doors and windows
- ⇒ Storm Preparation & Landscaping Mitigation Measures



For information on how to mitigate your home against storm damage, go to www.fhba.com/homeowners.

Additional Mitigation Measures Your Contractor May Perform

- ⇒ Opening Protection Devices—impact resistant windows, doors, skylights and garage doors
- ⇒ Installing Shutters for Opening Protection
- ⇒ Hip Roofs & Gable-end Roofs & Proper Bracing
- ⇒ Secondary Water Barriers
- ⇒ Securing Foundations & Proper Roof, Wall & Floor Connections including bracing and anchoring techniques
- ⇒ Methods for strengthening or correcting roof-decking attachments and fasteners during re-roofing
- ⇒ Proper Flashing
- ⇒ Mechanical equipment fastening

To find more information on How to Protect your Family and your Home from Storms, please visit the following websites:

Florida Department of Emergency Management: www.floridadisaster.org

Preparedness Checklist: www.fdem-mediacycenter.org/PDF

[EmergencyPreparednessChecklist.pdf](#)

County Emergency Management Website: http://www.floridadisaster.org/fl_county_em.asp

Family Disaster Plan: www.floridadisaster.org/family/

Business Disaster Plan: www.floridadisaster.org/business/

Tips for Evacuating Vulnerable Populations: www.floridadisaster.org/documents/Tips%20for%20Evacuating%20Vulnerable%20Populations.pdf

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): www.Fema.gov/

Plan, Prepare & Mitigate: www.fema.gov/plan-prepare-mitigate and www.ready.gov/hurricanes

Institute for Business & Home Safety:

“A Homeowner’s Guide to Hurricane Retrofit:” www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/pdf/hurricaneretrofit.pdf

Gable-end Bracing: www.disastersafety.org/project?projectId=4297

Gable-end Bracing Overhangs: www.disastersafety.org/project?projectId=4036

Federal Alliance for Safe Homes—FLASH:

www.flash.org/perilhurricanes.php

Disaster Contractors Network:

<http://www.dcnonline.org/>.

Office of Insurance Regulation:

<http://www.floir.com/choices/>

Department of Business and Professional Regulations:

Unlicensed Activity: [www.myfloridalicense.com/dbpr/reg/](http://www.myfloridalicense.com/dbpr/reg/UnlicensedActivity.html)

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