

Hurricane Safety Tips for Your Home



What to do when a hurricane is approaching

Hurricane warnings may give you 24-hour notice, but time is crucial, and tornadoes often form when a hurricane makes landfall. That's why it's important to know exactly what to do when severe weather threatens your home and family. Making the right moves can save your life, as well as the lives of those you love.

Know the difference between a hurricane WATCH and a hurricane WARNING

- A hurricane **WATCH** means hurricane conditions are *possible*, usually within 36 hours.
- A hurricane **WARNING** indicates conditions are *expected* in the area, usually within 24 hours.

If you are under a Hurricane WATCH, it is important to:

- Keep up-to-date on storm information by listening to NOAA Weather Radio or local radio and TV stations.
- Store any lawn furniture, outdoor decorations or ornaments, trash cans, hanging plants, and anything else that can be picked up by the wind.
- Cover all windows of your home. If shutters have not been installed, use precut plywood. *Note:* Do not tape windows. Tape does not prevent windows from breaking.
- Fill the gas tank of your car.
- If you are in a manufactured home, recheck tie-downs.

When a Hurricane WARNING is issued:

- Pay attention to the advice of local officials and evacuate when told to do so.
- Complete any preparations you started under the watch.
- If evacuation is *not* advised, stay indoors, away from windows.
- Be aware: The "eye" is deceptively calm and does not mean the storm is over. The storm will worsen once the eye passes over and the winds blow from the opposite direction.
- Be alert for tornadoes: Tornadoes are possible during a hurricane and even after it passes. Stay indoors, and go to the center of your home, in a closet or bathroom without windows.
- Stay away from flood waters: If you approach a flooded road, turn your car around and take another route. If you are caught driving on a flooded road and waters are rising rapidly around you, get out of the car and climb to higher ground.

After a hurricane is over:

- Continue listening to NOAA Weather Radio or local radio or TV stations for instructions. Make sure all is definitely clear outside and the storm has completely passed before going out.
- If you were evacuated, return home *only* when local officials tell you it is safe to do so.
- Inspect your home for damage.
- Use flashlights in the dark. Never use candles.
- Report downed power lines and stay away from them.
- Use water and food that you have stored for emergency purposes.

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