

Address: _____



Review these considerations with your real estate agent, home inspector, contractor, or other trusted advisor if the home is likely to experience a hurricane.

Location Checklist

- Is the home in an area that has experienced or is predicted to experience hurricanes? YES NO
- Is the home located in a storm surge evacuation zone? YES NO

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, speak with a qualified, licensed engineer, inspector, or local code official to determine the best course of action to protect your home from disasters OR consider a home in another location.

Construction Checklist

- The windows, doors, and garage doors are rated for design pressure or impact.
 - » Impact-rated means that they can withstand debris (trees, building materials, etc.) traveling at high speeds.
 - » If there are no impact-resistant windows or impact-rated doors, you can choose from a wide variety of tested and approved hurricane shutters and panels to protect openings.

You can strengthen the garage door system by:

- Ensuring that the tracks are secure and rollers are not loose.
- Inspecting the mounting around the door for loose or missing screws.
- Having a certified garage door installation company inspect and upgrade the door for high wind, or replace it with one designed for impact and cyclic pressure.

Check to see if the roof was constructed with high winds in mind:

- The roof coverings (shingles, metal, or tile) are rated for high winds or impact.
- The roof decking was properly installed with a dense nailing pattern.
- The roof is in good condition with no signs of moisture or rotten wood visible from inside the attic.
- A secondary water barrier was installed, such as an ice and water shield or a fully-adhered roof deck membrane.
- The roof is hip style, not gable style.
 - » Hip is more aerodynamic than a gable-style roof and better resists uplift from high wind.
- The attic ventilation openings (soffit vents, ridge vents, off-ridge vents, gable rake vents, turbines) are rated to withstand water intrusions in high winds.
- The soffits are in good condition and are fastened to the home or to nailing strips at an appropriate interval.
- Porches and patio roofs are properly anchored and attached to the main structure.
 - » Improperly-anchored porch columns can cause building weakness and lead to failure when high winds lift them.

Make sure the home components are connected and adequately tied together by ensuring:

- The roof deck is adequately attached to the framing.
 - » Check inside the attic for “shiners,” or rows of nails that missed the framing. Shiners may mean that the deck needs reinforcing with closed cell spray foam applied to the underside of the deck.
- The roof is connected to the wall with closely spaced metal connectors that are properly installed per the manufacturer’s specifications.
- The walls are connected to the foundation using anchor bolts or other embedded anchors as opposed to “cut” nails.

Consider wall features and material types:

- The wall coverings are constructed from a material that can withstand hurricane-force winds.
 - » Common residential wall covering options include brick, fiber cement siding, stucco, vinyl, and wood.
- Finishes inside and out are solidly backed and installed over continuous concrete or concrete masonry substrate, which enhances structural integrity while reducing gaps, seams, and the potential for air infiltration.
 - » Using concrete systems can eliminate the need for separate sheathing and framing components, reduce complexity, and simplify the required labor.

- Any masonry or concrete block walls are constructed with reinforced steel.
- Wood-frame construction has plywood or OSB sheathing to provide added wind resistance.

Is the home prepared for potential flooding? Review the flood checklist. YES NO

Depending on the age of the home, you may want to undertake certain structural retrofits and upgrades at the time of purchase. Hurricane-specific options include:

- Bracing gable-end walls.
- Bracing soffit covers.
- Upgrading to a wind-resistant roof covering.
- Purchasing window protection like tested and approved hurricane shutters or temporary emergency panels.
- Replacing the garage door with an impact-rated product or install an after-market bracing kit.
- Strengthening the roof deck connection.
- Strengthening the roof-to-wall connections by installing hurricane clips or straps.
- Installing a secondary water barrier.
- Improving anchorage of attached roof structures on carports and porches.

Maintain your home to keep it ready for a hurricane by:

- Trimming tree limbs back from extending over your home. Hire a professional arborist if trees pose a risk to the home or if trimming requires professional equipment and assistance.
- Using lightweight mulch instead of rock or gravel in landscaping and using fire-resistant materials if you live in both a hurricane and wildfire risk area.
- Strengthening your soffits by applying a bead of polyurethane sealant between the wall and the trim where soffit panels are installed.
- Cleaning gutters and downspouts to allow water to flow away from your home's foundation.
- Checking your roof for damaged, missing, or loose shingles or tiles, using binoculars to safely make observations from the ground. Make sure shingles are not curled, broken, or slightly lifted.
- Securing loose items in your yard ahead of expected severe weather.
- Checking the operation and maintenance of the impact shutter systems. If the shutters are removable, verify all of the hardware is available. Ensure that the anchoring systems are free of corrosion or damage.