

Prevention

Power

How To Reduce
Disaster Damage

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Even with today's forecasting technology, preparation is needed before a hurricane is headed your way to help protect your home and belongings. The Federal Emergency Management Agency offers preventative steps homeowners, communities and businesses can take to reduce disruption and loss before disaster strikes. Hurricanes can produce both high winds and extensive flooding. If you are in an area subject to flooding, follow tips for reducing flood damage as well. You can't prevent the weather, but... you can prevent the damage.

Tips anyone can tackle:

- Know your risk – contact your local emergency management office or building department or visit the *Project Impact* Web site at www.fema.gov/impact to learn about potential risk areas for your community.
- Know your local evacuation and shelter plan. Establish an out-of-state family contact and make plans to care for pets in the event of a disaster.
- Promptly and properly dispose of hazardous materials.
- Talk with an insurance agent to ensure that you have adequate flood insurance.
- Keep your yard free of debris that could become projectiles in high winds.
- Make a list of items to bring inside in the event of a hurricane watch.

Tips a do-it-yourselfer can tackle:

- Install storm shutters on windows.
- Install head and foot bolts to secure entry doors at the top and bottom.
- Trim dead or overhanging branches from the trees surrounding your home.

Tips that require an expert's help:

Project Impact strongly recommends that homeowners hire or consult a qualified professional for assistance with the following prevention measures:

- Ensure that roof sheathing is properly installed.
- Reinforce your roof with straps and bracing.
- When re-roofing, remove old roof shingles, add more nails to roof boards and use high-wind resistant shingles.
- Reinforce garage doors. Anchor compressors, carports and other exterior items.

