



Pinellas County Building Code Requirements Updated for Hurricane Windows 2024

In Pinellas County, Florida, it is **mandatory to use hurricane-replacement windows** if a homeowner is replacing more than 25% of their home's existing windows at once

As of the latest updates, the Florida Building Code, which Pinellas County adheres to, requires that all new construction and significant renovations in hurricane-prone areas include impact-resistant windows.

These experts test these windows to withstand Category 5 hurricane conditions, with winds exceeding 140 mph. The design ensures the window will not allow air or water to penetrate the home, even if the glass breaks. It will provide an additional layer of safety during a storm.

The [Florida Building Code \(FBC\)](#) mandates that windows in buildings within one mile of the coastline. In areas where wind speeds reach 110 mph or higher, they must be impact-resistant or equipped with approved protective systems.

Moreover, the [Pinellas County Building Codes](#) stipulate that if a homeowner replaces more than **25% of a home's existing windows** at once, the new windows must be hurricane-impact-resistant. This requirement is part of a broader effort to improve buildings' resilience against the destructive forces of nature.

Local building authorities also regulate the installation methods, types of fasteners used, and sealants to ensure that the contractors install the windows correctly and provide maximum protection. Homeowners and contractors must stay informed about these requirements, as they are subject to change with new building code editions.

The most recent update, implementing the [8th Edition of the Florida Building Code](#), took effect on January 1, 2024.

Consulting with local building authorities or a professional contractor well-versed in the current hurricane window building code requirements and policies is crucial for those living in Pinellas County. This ensures compliance with the regulations and guarantees the safety and integrity of the property.