

PETS

- ☐ Food & water dishes
- ☐ Pet food
- ☐ Medications
- ☐ Kitty litter, litter box or pee pads
- ☐ Pet carriers
- ☐ Leash/harness
- ☐ Bedding
- ☐ Toys
- ☐ Vaccination documents
- ☐ Name Tags



TOOLS

- ☐ Buckets and towels
- ☐ Duct tape
- ☐ Scissors, pocketknife,
axe/hatchet
- ☐ Gloves, goggles, mask
- ☐ Tarps
- ☐ Hammer and nails
- ☐ Rope and bungee cords
- ☐ Outdoor extension cords
- ☐ Ladder



FOR YOUR GO BAGS

- ☐ Maps and directions to evacuation routes / nearby shelters
- ☐ Your family's disaster plan, home inventory, and other important documents in a water proof bag
- ☐ Spare keys to your home, car, shed, safe
- ☐ Bottled water, protein & snack bars
- ☐ Cellphone, charger & cord
- ☐ Flashlight and batteries
- ☐ Water purification tablets or filtration device



FOR YOUR GO BAGS

- ☐ Whistle
- ☐ Medications/First Aid Kit
- ☐ Insect repellent, sunscreen
- ☐ Glasses
- ☐ Wallet, cash, credit cards
- ☐ Toilet wipes, toothbrush/paste and other needed hygiene items
- ☐ Change of clothes
- ☐ Hand sanitizer





PREPARING YOUR HOME

In Florida, many homeowners choose to face hurricanes at home or alongside friends. No matter where you plan to stay, taking proactive steps to strengthen your home can make a big difference when severe weather hits.

PROTECT YOUR WINDOWS & DOORS

When it comes to protecting your home during a hurricane, windows and doors—including garage doors—are among the most vulnerable. Fortunately, you have several effective options:

- Permanent shutters that roll up/down or fold accordion-style
- Removable aluminum panels installed before each storm
- Impact-resistant doors, and windows
- Plywood





Storm shutters and panels are typically made of aluminum or steel, but there are alternatives like hurricane fabric, made from resin or Kevlar-coated materials.

While plywood offers some protection in a pinch, it doesn't compare to the effectiveness of the options above. And contrary to popular belief, taping your windows doesn't help—in fact, it can make things worse by causing the glass to break into larger, more dangerous shards.



Installing Storm Panels

Storm panels are a cost-effective option, but safety is key during installation. Wear thick gloves and use proper tools to avoid injury, especially when healthcare access may be limited. A wing-nut driver can speed up installation, and if your panels use screws, stock up before hurricane season.



IS YOUR VEHICLE SECURE?

Now's the time to decide where to park or store your vehicle. Inside a garage is best, so if you have one, now is the time to clear it out and make space for your car. Otherwise, make sure your car is parked away from trees and power lines or areas prone to flooding. Gas up ahead of time – you may need to use your vehicle to evacuate the area.

OUTSIDE THE HOME

During hurricane season, keep trees trimmed and gutters clear. Before a storm, remove or secure outdoor items to prevent flying debris and ensure proper drainage. Bring items inside when possible.

☐

Trash cans

☐

Potted Plants

☐

Lawn Equipment

☐

Flagpoles

☐

Patio Umbrella

☐

Sports Equipment

☐

Grill

☐

Outdoor furniture



Don't fully drain your pool before a hurricane—the water helps prevent cracking if the ground swells from heavy rain. Instead, before the storm, lower the water level by 1–2 feet. Add chlorine to reduce bacteria, turn off the pump and motor, and cover them tightly with plastic to protect from water damage.

LAST-MINUTE TASKS

ALARMS

If you haven't already, install battery-operated carbon monoxide and smoke detectors throughout your home.

WATER

Fill bathtubs and containers with tap water for washing and flushing. Make ice—gallon-sized zip-lock bags or large containers last longer than cubes. You can also freeze bottled water.

FOOD SAFETY

Set your fridge and freezer to the coldest settings. Keep fridge doors closed—food will stay cold for about 4 hours. Freezer items can last longer if temps stay below 40°F and may be safe to refreeze or cook. Dry ice can help keep food frozen for days.

ELECTRONICS & VALUABLES

Charge phones and essential devices. Use airplane mode for faster charging but turn it off after charging to get emergency alerts. Unplug nonessential electronics to avoid damage from power surges. Move valuables away from doors and windows in case of flooding.

Pet Safety Tips Before a Storm



Whether you're away for a day or a week, it's important to have essential supplies ready to care for your pets. Store these items in a sturdy, easy-to-carry container (like a duffle bag or covered bin) and keep them in an accessible spot. Your pet disaster supply kit should include:

- Medications and medical records in a waterproof container, along with a basic first aid kit.
- Sturdy leashes, harnesses, or carriers to transport pets safely and prevent escapes.
- A recent photo of you with your pet(s) to help prove ownership if you're separated.
- Food, clean water, bowls, cat litter/pan, and a can opener.
- Care instructions including feeding schedules, medical needs, behavior issues, and your vet's contact info.
- Comfort items, like pet beds and toys, if they're easy to carry.

Pet Safety Tips Before a Storm



You may not be home when an evacuation order is issued. Identify a trusted neighbor who can access your home, retrieve your pets and their supplies, and meet you at a designated location. Make sure they're familiar with your pets and where everything is stored. If you use a pet sitting service, discuss emergency plans with them ahead of time.

Make sure your pets are wearing collars with tags containing your contact information.

Being prepared ensures you can evacuate safely and quickly with your pets. Keep in mind that animals may behave differently under stress. Always leash dogs and keep cats in carriers. Never leave pets unattended, as even the calmest animals may panic, flee, or act out.

Planning Your Pet's Evacuation

Before the Storm:

- Use [PetsWelcome.com](https://www.petswelcome.com) to research and pre-book pet-friendly hotels along your evacuation route.
- Save hotels contact info in your emergency binder or phone.
- Look up backup locations in case primary routes or areas become inaccessible.

During the Storm:

- If evacuating, refer to your saved hotels list for immediate pet-friendly shelter.
- Confirm availability and check for pet-specific restrictions (e.g., size, number, breed).
- Keep pets on leashes or in carriers.

After the Storm:

- Use the site to relocate temporarily if your home is damaged or uninhabitable.
- It's also helpful for traveling to reunite with displaced family or friends with pets.

As a last resort if you can't evacuate your pets to a friend or family member, and can't book a pet-friendly hotel, you may consider a pet evacuation shelter in your county. You will likely need to pre-register and your pets will need to be up to date on vaccinations.

Effective October 1st, 2025, it will be considered a 3rd degree felony to restrain and abandon pets during a natural disaster. Take your pets with you when you evacuate or board them with friends or family.



PREPARING YOUR BUSINESS

EMERGENCY PLAN

If you manage a business in Florida, review your business continuity plan, including remote work protocols and employee communication strategies.

Ensure you have up-to-date emergency contact info for all staff. Back up critical data and store it off-site. Update your property inventory—including new equipment—and take photos or videos to speed up insurance claims if needed.

Unplug computers and electronics to prevent surge damage, cover them with plastic, and store them off the ground to avoid water damage. Lastly, give employees enough time to prepare their own homes.

CREATE A DISASTER PLAN

Your emergency plan doesn't need to be complex—but it should cover the essentials. At a minimum, include:

- Vital info for each household member (contact details, medications, date of birth, Social Security number)
- A phone number for an out-of-area contact (friend or relative)
- An agreed-upon action plan for emergencies
- Designated meeting spots in case you get separated
- Evacuation routes and nearby shelters
- Assigned roles—who's responsible for what

**DISASTER
RECOVERY
PLAN**



To make it easily accessible:

- Share a digital copy with all household members
- If you have children, consider giving each one a whistle and a laminated contact card on a lanyard