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## Hurricane Preparation

### What are some general ways I can stay prepared all the time?

- The best way to protect your family and house from adverse weather is to build or renovate your home using the latest and strongest building procedures available.
- Make sure the street number of your house is clearly visible from the road so emergency vehicles can easily locate you.
- Have a safe place in mind to move your vehicle and/or boat.
- Check your insurance to see if it covers damage caused by floods and high winds.
- Store all valuables and important records in a waterproof container.
- Add at least one battery-operated, UL-listed smoke alarm and CO alarm on every floor of your home and in sleeping areas.
- Make sure all CO and smoke alarms have fresh batteries and are working.
- Regularly check to make sure fuel-burning appliances are properly installed and working according to the manufacturer's instructions. Inspect these appliances and ensure they are properly ventilated.
- Have a generator ready and know how to use it so you can keep things running after a storm. See the generator section below to find out how to choose one that's right for you.
- Visit [homedepot.com/weather](https://www.homedepot.com/weather) to watch The Home Depot and The Weather Channel's special hurricane preparation video.

### What should I include in my Family Disaster Plan?

- Include designated meeting places if separated and an out-of-state friend as a "check-in contact."
- Plan for two situations: Remaining in your home after a disaster or evacuating to a safer location.
- Write down important numbers for each member of your family.
- Appoint an adult family member to turn off electricity, gas and water.
- Know the nearest shelter and evacuation routes.



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### What are some areas of my house I should focus on when preparing for a hurricane?

- **Roofing Shingles** - Older asphalt shingles can bend and break in high winds. If you can easily lift a shingle tab with your hand, apply a little roofing cement under each loose tab. If you find shingles that are already damaged, go ahead and replace them before the wind picks up.
- **Roof Framing** - If the uplift of the wind removes the plywood sheathing of a roof, it compromises the whole structure. Most of the time, the sheathing is held in place with nails, but you can strengthen things by running a bead of construction adhesive along both sides of the rafters or trusses where they meet the sheathing. For tight spots, apply the adhesive to the flat sides of quarter round molding and press it into the corner between the rafter and decking.
- **Windows and Doors** - Consider replacing existing windows and doors with impact resistant ones. If you need a fast solution, ordinary plywood makes an effective barrier. You'll want a minimum of 1/2-inch plywood, although 5/8 or 3/4-inch is even better. If your windows are surrounded by wood, cut the plywood to cover the opening and secure it with wood screws every 12-inches or so. For brick or stucco openings, you'll need to buy special clips to secure the plywood or use masonry fasteners.
- **Garage Doors** - The garage has the largest opening to your home and is the least prepared for hurricane force winds. If you're buying a new garage door, look for one that's reinforced or one that offers extra bracing that can be added to the closed door. If you have to create temporary bracing, attach a 2x4 to the floor with masonry anchors and use it to provide support for two or three vertical supports which can then be connected to the wall above the door. Make sure that the door operator is disconnected while the bracing is in place.

### How should I store water?

- Clean bathtubs and fill with water in case water lines are damaged. Use this water for cleaning only.
- For drinking and cooking water, you should store one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days in thoroughly washed plastic, fiberglass, or enamel-lined containers.



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### What are some important supplies to have on hand?

- Make sure supplies are easily accessible and stored in a waterproof area.
- Water, non-perishable food, a first aid kit, portable radio, flashlight, extra batteries, medications and a generator are all essential items in order to be fully prepared.
- In addition to the recommended supplies, do a survey of your house for anything you think might be a necessity for your family and pets.
- Keep a large, multi-purpose fire extinguisher within reach in rooms like the kitchen, garage, bedroom, living room, laundry room and any room with a chimney. Read the instructions and know how to use the fire extinguisher before a storm hits.

### Why do I need a generator and how do I select the right one?

- Generators can be indispensable in a storm. They supply emergency power to keep food refrigerated and lights on. To learn how to choose the ideal standby generator for your home, read the steps below and visit our interactive generator selector on [homedepot.com](http://homedepot.com).
- Determine what you will need to be powered by an electric generator, such as general lighting, medical equipment and basic appliances.
- Determine if equipment requires a portable or stationary generator.
- Determine if you will need multiple outlets or multiple types of outlets on your generator.
- Another option is a whole-house generator, which runs off your gas utility line or L.P. tank to supply electrical power to pre-selected emergency circuits that supply your home's lighting, heating, air conditioning, water, and appliances.
- For more helpful tips on how to prepare your home, go over our 2009 Hurricane Guide at [homedepot.com/weather](http://homedepot.com/weather).



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### Helpful products for hurricane preparation and recovery:

- 2x4's
- Air Filters
- Batteries & Chargers
- Battery Back-up Sump System
- Battery Operated Water Alarm
- Broom
- Caulking & Sealant
- Circular Saw
- Cleaning Solutions
- Cloth & Duct Tape
- Concrete, Cement & Masonry
- Construction Adhesive
- Cordless Drill
- Dust Mask & Respirator
- Extension Cords
- Exterior Paint & Stain
- Fire Extinguisher
- First Aid Kit
- Flashlights
- Grill
- Hammers, Mallets & Sledges
- Insect & Mosquito Control
- Interior Paint
- Ladder
- Level
- Masonry
- Measuring Tape
- Nails
- Paint Brushes
- Paint Brushes & Roller Covers
- Pipe Wrench
- Pliers
- Plywood
- Portable Generator
- Pressure Washer
- Propane
- Pruning Shears
- Pump
- Rags, Cloths & Sponges
- Roof Coatings
- Roofing Caulk
- Roofing Felt & Underlayment
- Roofing Shingles & Tiles
- Saw Blades
- Saw Horse & Workbench
- Screwdriver (Hand Tool)
- Screwdriver (Power Tool)
- Smoke, Fire and CO Detectors & Alarms
- Tarps
- Tools & Hardware
- Trash & Refuse Bags
- Utility Knives & Blades
- Water Heater
- Wood Screws
- Wrecking & Pry Bar