

# Ready Before the Storm: Your Hurricane Prep Guide





# Storm's coming? No problem.

Prepping for a hurricane doesn't have to be overwhelming. This guide is here to help you think ahead, act smart, and protect what matters most. Read through, check your lists, and get ahead of the storm before it shows up on your doorstep.

**You've got this.**

## This guide covers:

- ✓ Supplies
- ✓ Home Prep
- ✓ Evacuation
- ✓ Pet safety
- ✓ During & After The Storm
- ✓ Checklists & Resources

## Stocking Up

When it's time to stock up for a storm, don't wait; shop early before the shelves get wiped. Start with the essentials:

- Water (1 gallon per person per day),
- Non-perishable foods, and
- Plenty of batteries and flashlights.
- Portable phone chargers
- First-aid kit
- Pet food
- Toilet paper
- And snacks. Always snacks.

## Home Prep

Time to get your home hurricane-ready. Start by bringing in all the loose stuff from outside furniture, chairs, plants, and anything that isn't nailed down. Make sure your windows and doors are secure, and do a quick check for anything that might need a last-minute fix. If the power goes out (and it probably will), have a game plan: fill up the tub so you can flush, and freeze water jugs to keep the fridge cool longer. And don't forget, charge everything up: phones, flashlights, power banks, and portable fans, so when the lights go out, you'll thank yourself.

## Evacuation

If you need to evacuate, the key is to be ready before things get hectic. Know your main route and a backup because GPS might get weird if signals drop or roads are closed. Have a Go Bag packed and ready to grab with the basics: IDs, meds, snacks, water, a flashlight, chargers, cash, clothes, and anything essential for pets or kids. And don't forget your car; fill up the tank early. Waiting until the last minute means long lines or empty pumps (it goes fast), and a full tank could make all the difference if you need to leave quickly.



# Staying Sane

Riding out a hurricane can mean a lot of waiting and boredom. Keep your cool by planning for the downtime. Stock up on things to keep everyone entertained: books, puzzles, games, coloring supplies, or even a deck of cards. Download movies, shows, playlists, and podcasts before the Wi-Fi goes out, you'll thank yourself later. A little planning goes a long way when you're stuck inside, and the power's out, especially if you've got kids.

# Pet Care

Storms are scary for pets too. Make sure you've got the essentials ready: food, water, leash, crate, whatever they need to get through a few rough days. Bring them with you if you're heading out; no pet gets left behind. Plan ahead so your pets stay as safe and comfortable as the rest of the family.

# Documents & Essentials

Make sure your important documents are packed and ready. That includes your wallet, ID, insurance info, medical records, and anything else you'd need if you had to leave quickly. Store them in a waterproof bag and keep them somewhere easy to grab. Whether you stay or go, you'll be glad you did.

# During the hurricane

When a hurricane hits, it's really important to stay safe and be prepared, so here are some easy things to keep in mind.

- Stay inside and stay away from windows and glass doors to avoid any flying debris.
- Use flashlights instead of candles to keep things safe and avoid fire.
- Keep your emergency kit close by just in case.
- Keep an ear out for news updates and official alerts.
- Only use your phone for emergencies to save battery and keep the lines open.
- And remember, even if it feels calm during the eye of the storm, don't go outside until you're told it's safe.



# After the hurricane

Once the hurricane has passed, things might seem calm, but it's still super important to stay careful and take the right steps to stay safe. Here's what to do:

- Keep listening to local authorities for updates and instructions before heading outside.
- Stay away from floodwaters, they can be dangerous by carrying electric currents.
- Check your home for things like gas leaks, damage to walls or roofs, and any electrical issues.
- Take clear photos of any damage for insurance purposes.
- If you're using a generator, make sure it's running outside and far from windows and doors to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Stay completely clear of any downed power lines, they're extremely dangerous.
- And don't forget to check in with family and friends to let them know you're safe.



# Checklist

## Planning & Preparation

- ☐ Know your evacuation routes and local emergency shelters
- ☐ Sign up for local weather alerts and warnings
- ☐ Make a family communication & evacuation plan
- ☐ Review your insurance policies (home, flood, auto)
- ☐ Take photos/videos of your home for insurance documentation

## Emergency Supplies (3-7 days minimum)

- ☐ Water (1 gallon per person per day)
- ☐ Non-perishable food (canned goods, energy bars)
- ☐ Manual can opener
- ☐ Flashlights and extra batteries
- ☐ Battery-powered or hand-crank radio
- ☐ First aid kit and medications
- ☐ Personal hygiene items (toilet paper, soap, etc.)
- ☐ Extra cash (ATMs may not work)
- ☐ Phone chargers and backup power banks
- ☐ Copies of important documents
- ☐ (ID, insurance, medical info) in waterproof bags
- ☐ Face masks, sanitizer, disinfecting wipes
- ☐ Tools and supplies for securing your home

## Home Preparation

- ☐ Bring in outdoor furniture, decorations, and garbage bins
- ☐ Board up windows or install storm shutters
- ☐ Reinforce garage doors
- ☐ Trim trees and remove dead branches
- ☐ Clear gutters and downspouts
- ☐ Fill gas tanks in vehicles
- ☐ Charge all electronics
- ☐ Turn refrigerators and freezers to coldest setting
- ☐ Test generators (use outdoors only)

## Resources

### Forecasts & Storm Tracking

- [National Hurricane Center](#)
- [NOAA Weather Radio](#)

### Emergency Preparedness

- [Ready.gov – Hurricanes](#)
- [FEMA – Disaster Preparedness](#)

### Alerts & Communication

- [FEMA App](#)
- [American Red Cross Emergency App](#)

### Pet & Animal Safety

- [ASPCA Disaster Prep for Pets](#)
- [Pet-Friendly Shelter Locator \(RedRover\)](#)

Preparing for a storm doesn't mean bracing in fear, it means acting with care. Think ahead, stay calm, look after those around you, and don't forget to charge up your devices while you can.

**You're ready. Stay safe, you've got this!**